



**PERSPECTIVES
THAT DRIVE
ENTERPRISE
SUCCESS**

4TH QUARTER 2017
Investment Landscape

Table of contents



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Economic environment 5

Fixed income rates & credit 19

Equity 25

Other assets 37

Appendix 40

3rd quarter summary

THE ECONOMIC CLIMATE

- Growth strengthened across developed and emerging economies. Business surveys suggest conditions are improving in both manufacturing and service industries. [p. 17](#)
- The U.S. job market tightened as unemployment dropped from 4.4 to 4.2%, despite disappointing job growth data. Unemployment has not been this low since March of 2001. [p. 9](#)
- An independence movement in Catalonia has received little attention from the financial community, and risk premiums may not reflect the negative possible knock-on effects on the EU. [p. 16](#)

PORTFOLIO IMPACTS

- Improving economic growth, low inflation, low unemployment, and supportive monetary policy across most markets has created a positive environment for global risk assets, justifying a moderate overweight risk position. [p. 16](#)
- Within risk assets, we believe opportunities exist in emerging markets. [p. 33](#)

THE INVESTMENT CLIMATE

- Global interest rates are still at historic lows, and very little monetary tightening is priced in across developed markets over the next few years. Even in the U.S., the market is only expecting two rate hikes through the end of next year. [p. 20](#)
- Valuations across global equities and credit are elevated, and have been so for the past few years. Further price appreciation through equity multiple expansion or credit spread contraction is unlikely. [p. 23 & 34](#)

ASSET ALLOCATION ISSUES

- Equity performance remains strong. Year-to-date returns have been fundamentally driven, supported by earnings growth rather than valuation expansion. [p. 29](#)
- Equity volatility is near historic lows. Stable economic growth and inflation have likely contributed to the muted volatility environment. Investors should monitor leverage in strategies with a specific volatility target. [p. 35](#)

We believe a moderate overweight to risk is warranted

What drove the market in Q3?

“Traders keep bets on Fed rate hike in December after jobs report”

DECEMBER RATE HIKE PROBABILITY BASED ON MARKET PRICING

Apr 30 th	May 31 st	Jun 30 th	Jul 31 st	Aug 31 st	Oct 6 th
47%	43%	52%	42%	34%	80%

Article Source: Bloomberg, September 27th 2017

DECEMBER RATE HIKE PROBABILITY



Source: Bloomberg, as of 10/6/17, based on Fed fund futures prices

“U.S.-North Korea tensions fuel flight to safety”

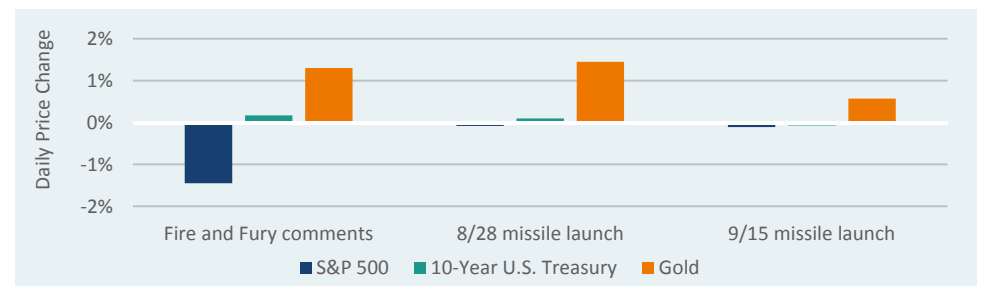
DAILY PRICE REACTION DURING NORTH KOREA EVENTS

Fire & fury comments 8/28 missile launch 9/15 missile launch

S&P 500	Gold	S&P 500	Gold	S&P 500	Gold
-1.5%	1.3%	-0.1%	1.5%	-0.1%	0.6%

Article Source: Financial Times, August 9th 2017

MARKET REACTION DURING NORTH KOREA EVENTS



Source: Bloomberg

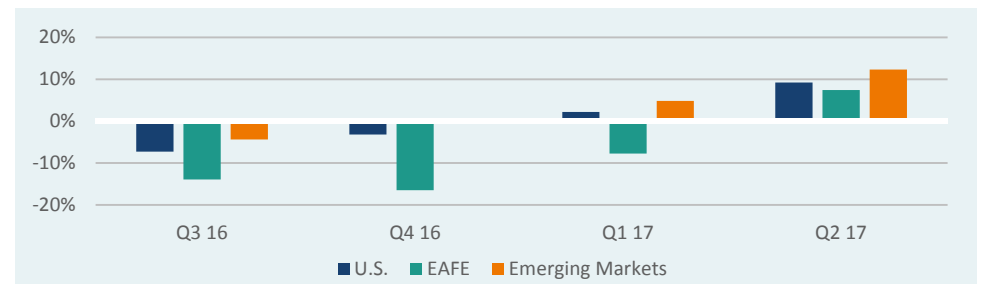
“Strong earnings lift U.S. stocks”

MSCI U.S. INDEX EARNINGS GROWTH (YOY)

Q3 16	Q4 16	Q1 17	Q2 17
-7.3%	-3.2%	2.2%	9.2%

Article Source: Wall Street Journal, July 25th 2017

EQUITY EARNINGS GROWTH (YOY)



Source: Bloomberg, MSCI, as of 9/30/17

“S&P 500 volatility hits 50-year low”

S&P 500 30-DAY ANNUALIZED TRAILING VOLATILITY

Apr 30 th	May 31 st	Jun 30 th	Jul 31 st	Aug 31 st	Sep 30 th
7.3%	7.8%	6.8%	7.1%	8.1%	5.8%

Article Source: Forbes, August 1st 2017

Economic environment

U.S. economics summary

- U.S. real GDP grew 2.2% YoY in Q2, consistent with the trend of slow, but steady growth in the current expansion. Consumer spending and business investment were the primary drivers of growth.
- Purchasing manager indexes (PMIs) moved higher to above average levels, indicating a likely acceleration in economic growth over the coming quarters. The ISM Manufacturing and Services PMIs for September were 60.8 and 59.8, respectively.
- The economy added an average of 91,000 jobs per month to payrolls in the third quarter. The September employment data was heavily influenced by hurricanes Harvey and Irma, which resulted in a decline of 33,000 jobs from payrolls, the first drop since 2010. Due to the calculation methodology, a bounce back should be expected in October.
- The U3 unemployment rate (unaffected by the hurricanes) fell 0.2% to a 17-year low of 4.2% over the quarter. The broader U6 unemployment rate also tightened, dropping 0.3% to 8.3%.
- Year-over-year headline CPI accelerated from 1.6% in June to 2.2% in September, while the core inflation rate was unchanged over the quarter at 1.7%. Outside of volatile energy prices inflationary pressures still appear absent, and core inflation remains below the Fed's 2% target.
- The Fed paused from raising interest rates following three consecutive quarters with hikes. Core inflation that has persistently been below the Fed's 2% target was the primary reason given to delay further tightening. The market is expecting the Fed to raise interest rates again in December based on fed fund futures prices.

	Most Recent	12 Months Prior
GDP (YoY)	2.2% 6/30/17	1.2% 6/30/16
Inflation (CPI YoY, Headline)	2.2% 9/30/17	1.5% 9/30/16
Expected Inflation (5yr-5yr forward)	2.0% 9/30/17	1.8% 9/30/16
Fed Funds Rate	1.25% 9/30/17	0.50% 9/30/16
10 Year Rate	2.3% 9/30/17	1.6% 9/30/16
U-3 Unemployment	4.2% 9/30/17	4.9% 9/30/16
U-6 Unemployment	8.3% 9/30/17	9.7% 9/30/16

U.S. economics – GDP growth

Real GDP grew by 2.2% YoY in Q2 (3.1% quarterly annualized rate), the fastest pace of expansion since Q3 2015. The economic recovery is nearly in its eighth year, but the level of growth remains low relative to history. Despite the length of the expansion, we do not see many of the typical signs that the economy is overheating.

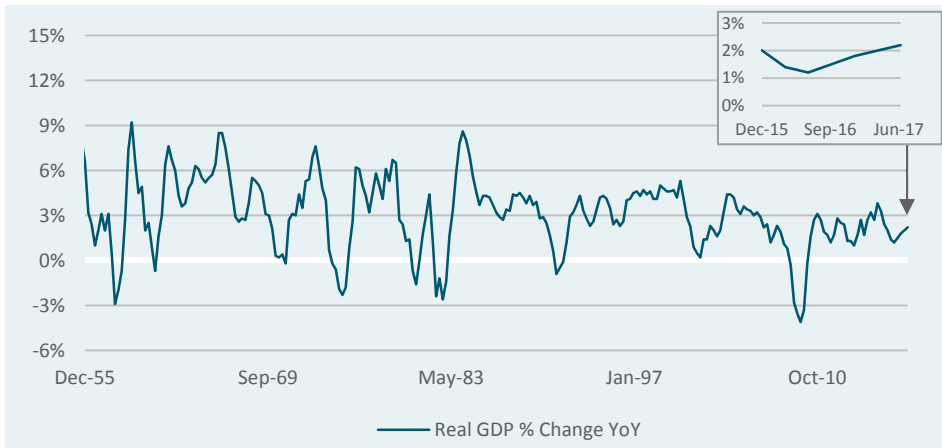
After slowing in the first quarter, consumer spending accelerated to 3.3%, and contributed 2.2% to the overall quarterly growth rate. A tight labor market and moderate wage gains should create a positive environment for consumer spending moving forward.

Business investment has picked up in recent quarters, and was the second largest contributor to GDP in Q2, while residential investment was a slight drag on growth. Trade also had a positive impact on growth, as exports increased at a quicker rate than imports.

Moderate growth is expected throughout the rest of the year – the Atlanta Fed GDP Now forecast for Q3 was 2.5% as of October 6th. Hurricanes Harvey and Irma disrupted growth in September, but the economy is likely to see a boost in Q4 once rebuilding begins.

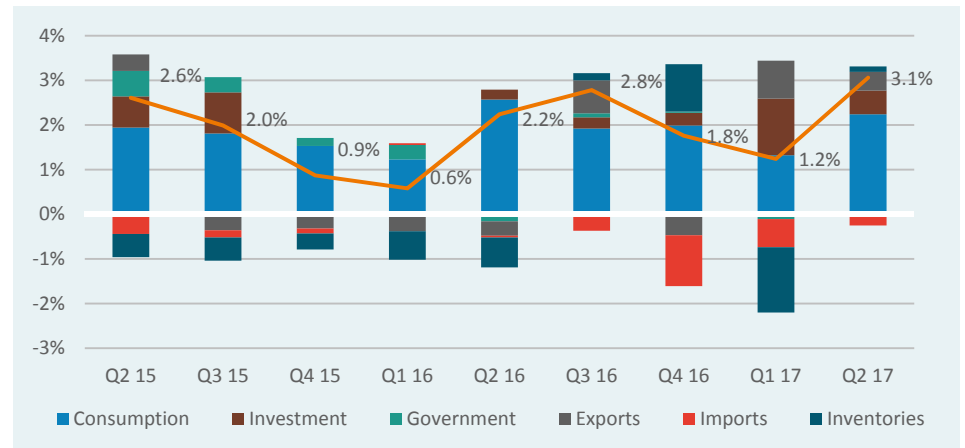
The economy experienced another quarter of moderate growth in Q2 with few signs of overheating

U.S. REAL GDP GROWTH (YOY)



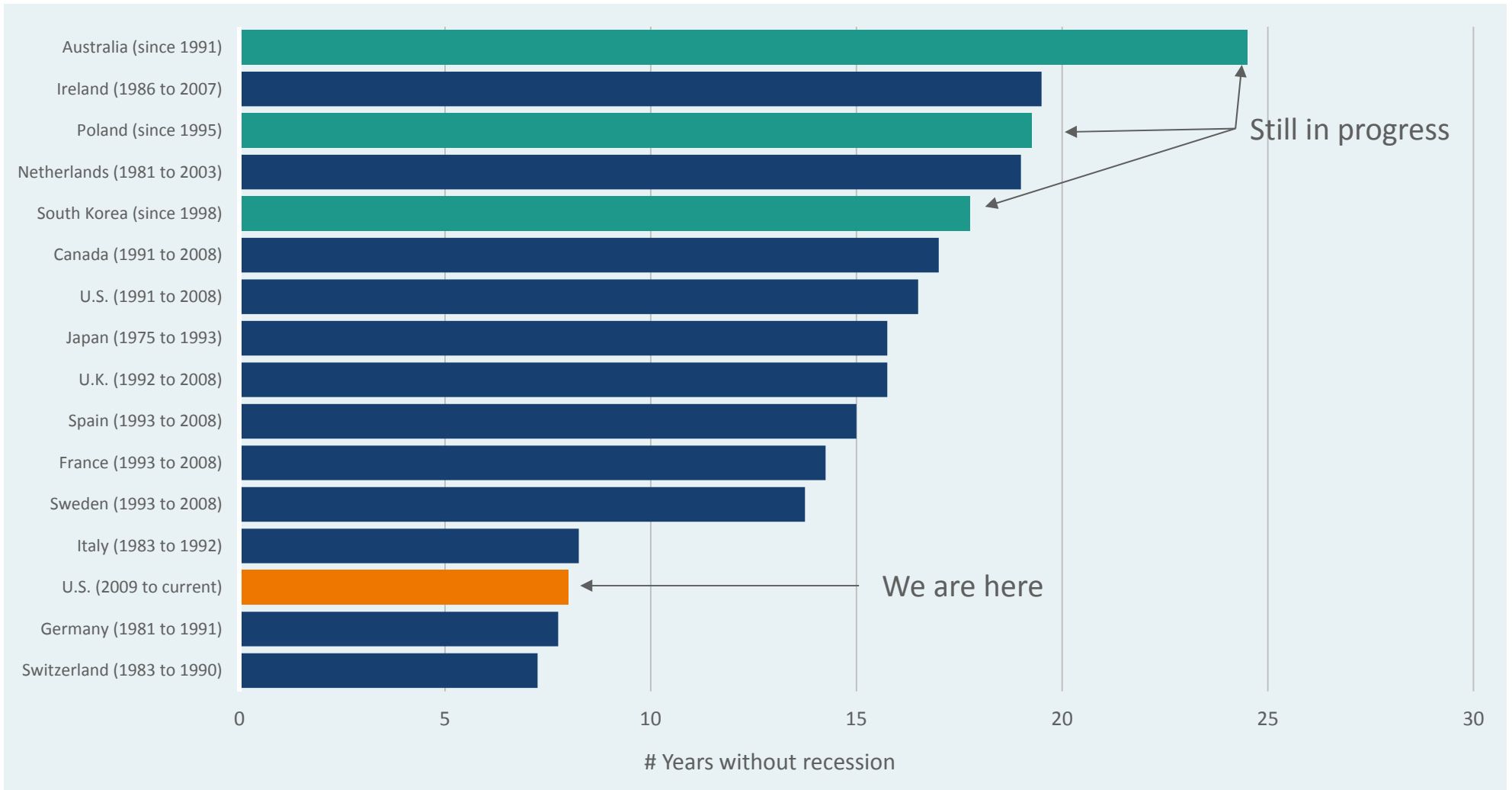
Source: FRED, as of 6/30/17

U.S. GDP COMPONENTS



Source: BEA, annualized quarterly rate, as of 6/30/17

How long can expansions continue?



Source: Australia Trade and Investment Commission

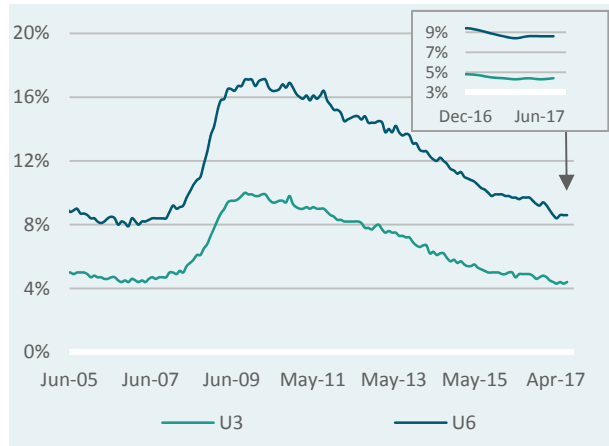
U.S. economics – Labor market

The U.S. job market tightened as unemployment dropped from 4.4 to 4.2% - the lowest level since March of 2001. Job creation data disappointed in September, though this may largely be attributed to the effects of hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

Labor growth throughout the current U.S. expansion has tended to be tilted towards lower-skill and lower-pay jobs. It is reasonable to ask whether this indicates that the recovery is weak or unbalanced. To arrive at an answer it is

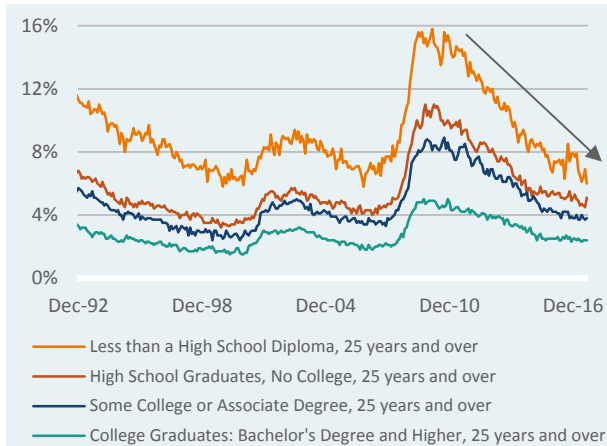
important to note that the types of jobs created during an economic recovery is partly a product of the types of jobs lost during the initial downturn. Examining unemployment by education level and age group suggests that the downturn disproportionately impacted the jobs of younger workers and those with less education. This implies that the job creation seen lately is natural and not necessarily an indication of weakness.

U.S. UNEMPLOYMENT



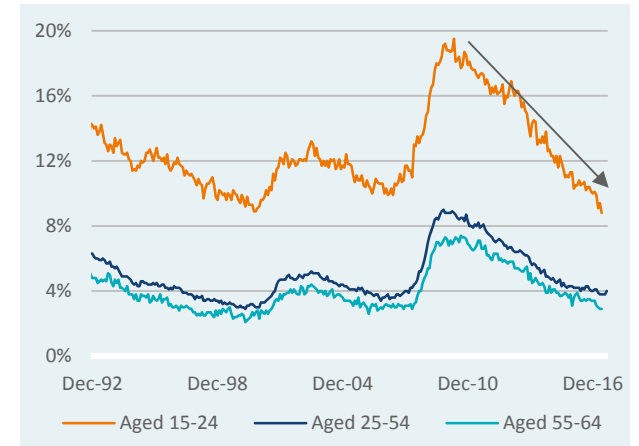
Source: FRED, as of 8/31/17

UNEMPLOYMENT BY EDUCATION LEVEL



Source: FRED, as of 8/31/17

UNEMPLOYMENT BY AGE GROUP



Source: FRED, as of 8/31/17

U.S. economics – The consumer

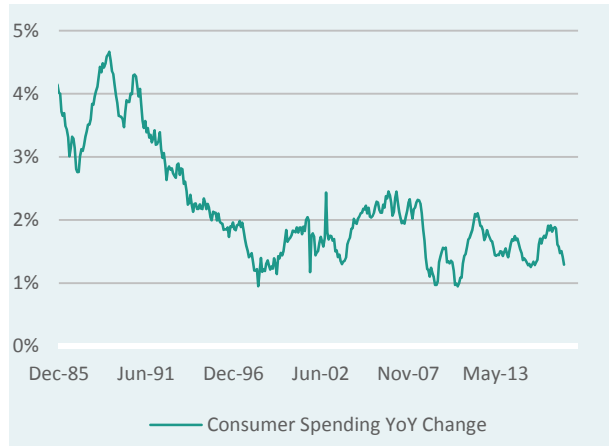
Consumer spending remained within a normal range. Savings rates, in aggregate, have declined over the past year and are now at levels consistent with past economic expansions. The fundamental picture for consumers is still positive. Low inflation, low unemployment, and moderate wage gains should provide a backdrop for further spending growth.

Total consumer debt has surpassed pre-crisis levels, fueled by student loans and auto loans. However, the

burden of debt is lower due to the lower interest rate environment.

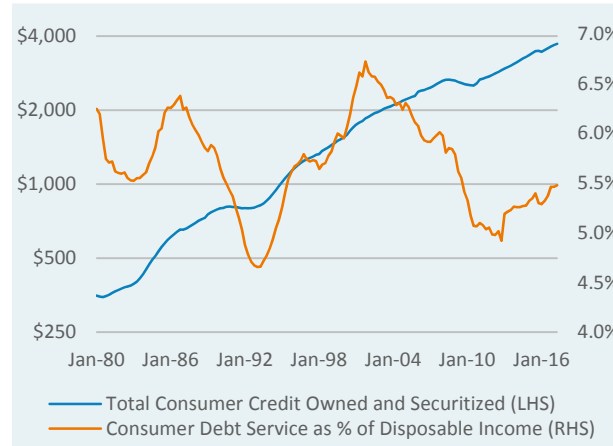
U.S. auto sales spiked in September, reversing a recent trend of weaker purchase activity. Hurricanes Irma and Harvey were estimated to have affected hundreds of thousands of vehicles, which contributed to buying activity throughout the month. However, the spike in sales will likely result in a drag on activity in future years.

CONSUMER SPENDING (YOY GROWTH)



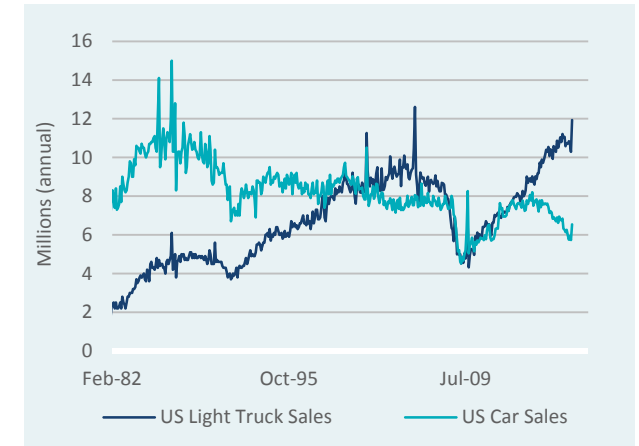
Source: Bloomberg, as of 8/31/17

CONSUMER DEBT & DEBT BURDEN



Source: FRED, as of 4/30/17

U.S. AUTO SALES



Source: Bloomberg, as of 9/30/17

U.S. economics – Sentiment

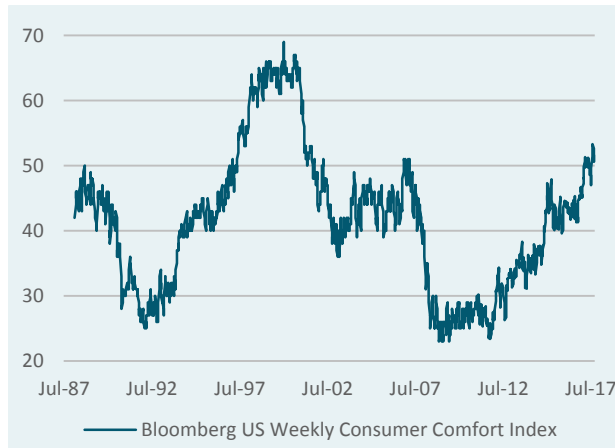
Consumer sentiment measures are above average, reflecting Americans' overall positive view of the economy. In the preliminary reading for October, The University of Michigan Consumer Sentiment Survey unexpectedly increased from 95.1 to 101.1, the highest level since 2004, which placed it in the 91st percentile since 1978. According to the survey, the elevated level of confidence is primarily due to consumers anticipating low unemployment, low inflation, small increases in interest rates, and moderate gains in income. Consumer sentiment has been high since the election last

November, but there has yet to be a material increase in consumer spending.

Other measures of sentiment, such as the NFIB Small Business Optimism Index, remain high by historical standards, but have dropped so far this year. Small businesses are still expecting to benefit from tax reform and deregulation, although significant uncertainty remains surrounding the timing and nature of these changes.

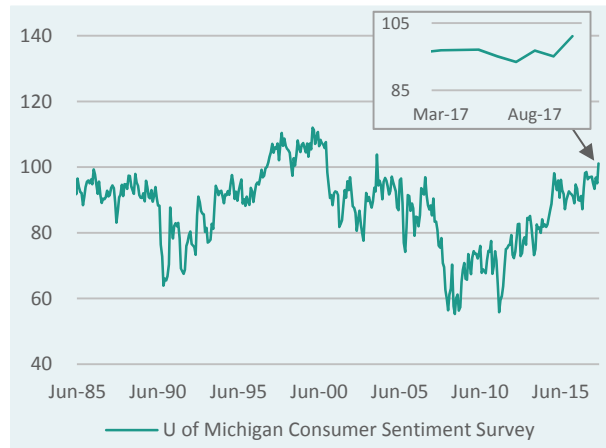
Consumers and small businesses have a positive outlook on the economy

CONSUMER COMFORT INDEX



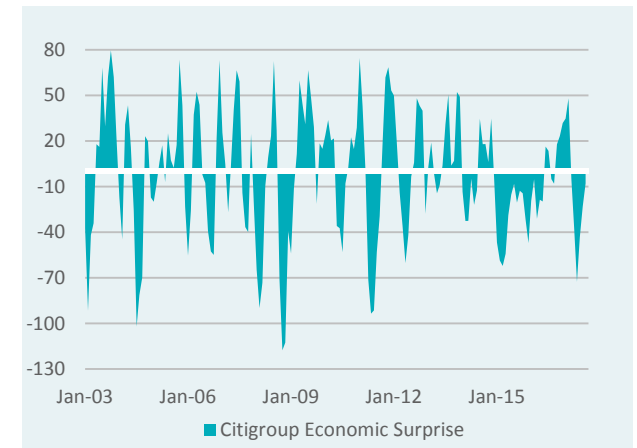
Source: Bloomberg, as of 9/24/17 (see Appendix)

CONSUMER SENTIMENT



Source: University of Michigan, as of 9/30/17 (see Appendix)

U.S. ECONOMIC SURPRISE



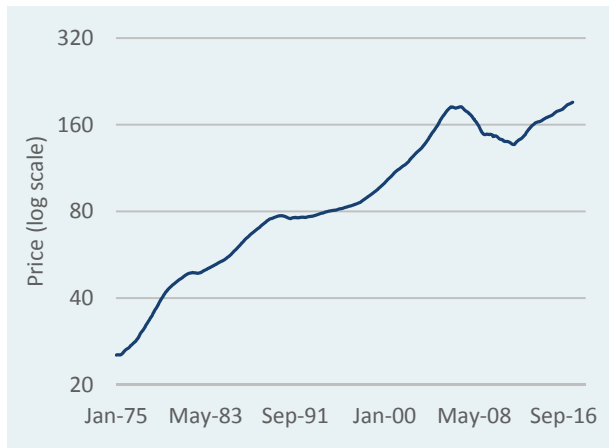
Source: Bloomberg, as of 9/29/17 (see Appendix for details)

U.S. economics – Housing

U.S. home prices continued to climb higher with 5.9% growth YoY in July according to the S&P/Case-Shiller U.S. National Home Price Index. New and existing home sales have decelerated and are flat year-over-year, though not necessarily worrying given the volatility of sales activity. A surge in housing starts and permit applications is possible as areas of the south and southeast rebuild following hurricane damage.

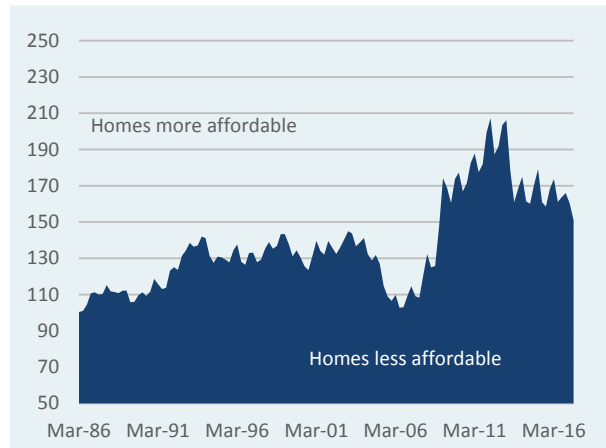
Owning a home remains affordable relative to history. A scenario of higher interest rates and further home price appreciation would result in affordability falling towards the historical average. Materially higher interest rates would make home ownership much more expensive, given the low current level of interest rates. A 1% rise in mortgage interest rates for a \$400,000 loan results in a roughly \$4,000 rise in annual cost for homeowners.

CASE-SHILLER HOME PRICE INDEX



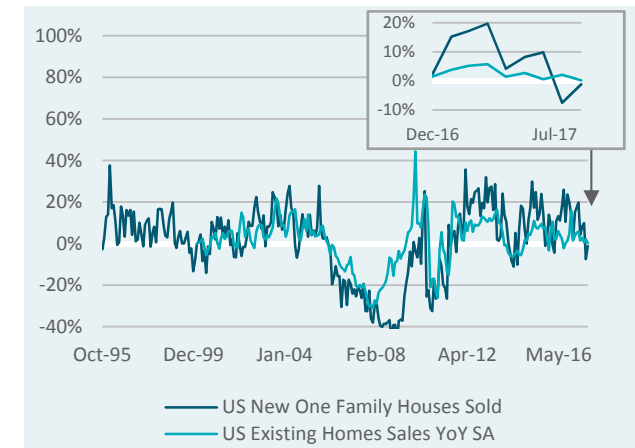
Source: FRED, as of 6/30/17

HOME AFFORDABILITY



Source: National Association of Realtors, as of 6/30/17 (see appendix) Source: Bloomberg, as of 8/31/17

HOUSING SALES



U.S. economics – Inflation

Headline CPI inflation was 2.2% from the previous year in September, up from 1.6% in June, driven mainly by increases in gasoline prices following hurricanes Harvey and Irma. Core inflation was unchanged at 1.7%.

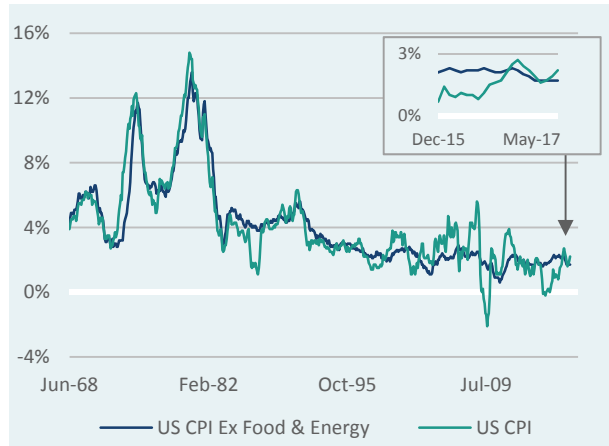
Although the Fed has belabored the “low inflation environment”, inflation measures are not extreme from a historical perspective. The perception of low inflation is likely being impacted by the long duration of the current economic expansion since rising inflation typically occurs in the late cycle. Although several Fed officials have stated they

believe below target inflation is transitory, continued softness in price levels may result in a slower pace of monetary tightening.

Market based inflation expectations increased modestly throughout the quarter with the 10-year TIPS breakeven inflation rate up 10 bps to 1.83%. Expectations are still low, and investors are receiving a low inflation premium on nominal Treasuries.

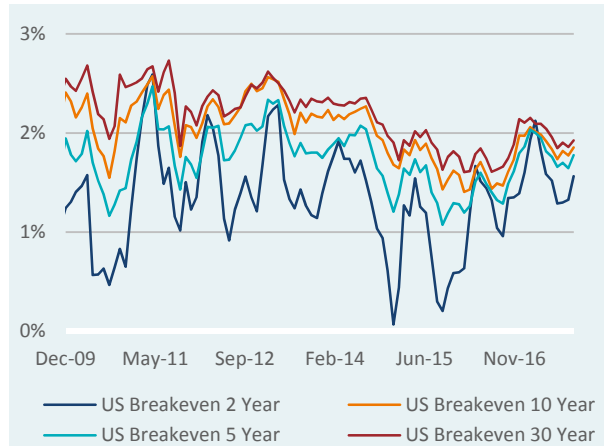
Pressures on core inflation are still low

U.S. CPI (YOY)



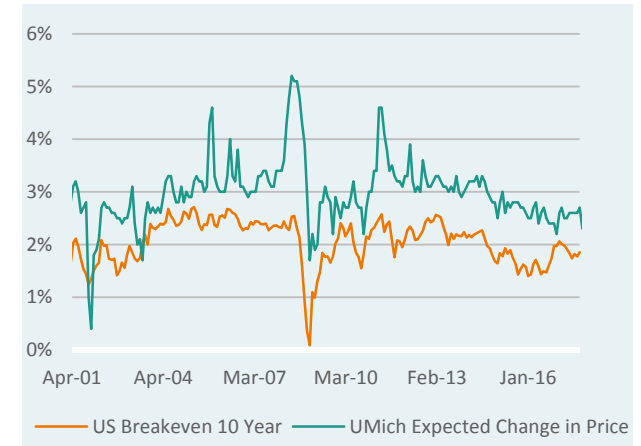
Source: FRED, as of 9/30/17

U.S. TIPS BREAKEVEN RATES



Source: FRED, as of 9/30/17

INFLATION EXPECTATIONS



Source: Bloomberg, as of 9/30/17

Is geopolitical risk abnormally high?

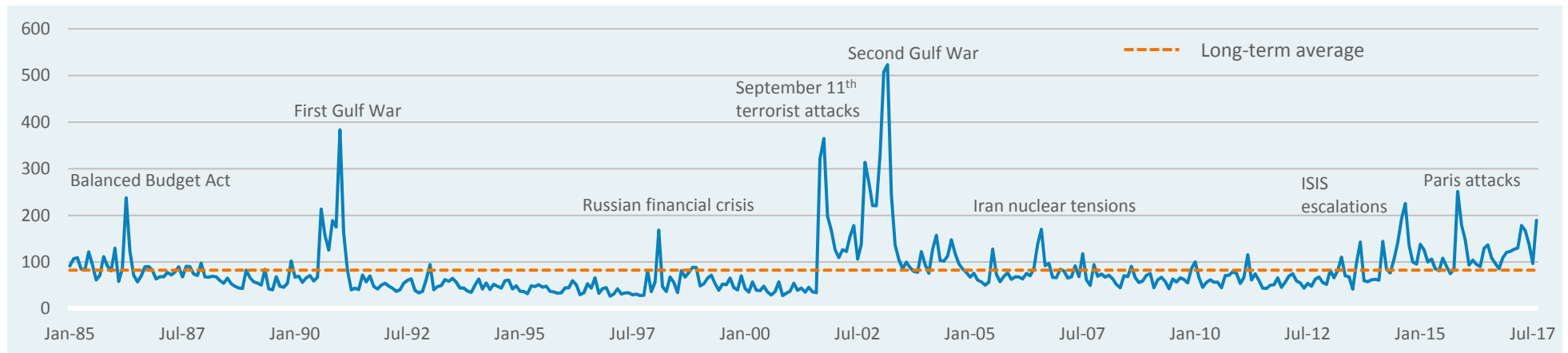
Several events over the quarter, especially increased tensions on the Korean peninsula, have led to heightened concerns over the impact of geopolitical risk on financial markets. The unique nature of each geopolitical event makes it difficult to determine whether the apparent risks are greater than past events.

The Geopolitical Risk Index (GPR) uses automated text-search results of 11 U.S. and international newspapers to give some indication of how the current environment relates to history. While the GPR is above average, it is not abnormally high. Further, given the unpredictability of

geopolitical risk and how it will affect financial markets, we do not recommend making any significant changes to portfolios.

While the concerns over a nuclear attack from North Korea have recently escalated, the threat is not a new one. Many political experts believe the probability of an attack by North Korea against the U.S. or its allies is low because it would jeopardize the existence of the current regime. Additionally, China's support of North Korea has waned in recent months after it agreed to two new rounds of sanctions through the United Nations Security Council.

GEOPOLITICAL RISK INDEX



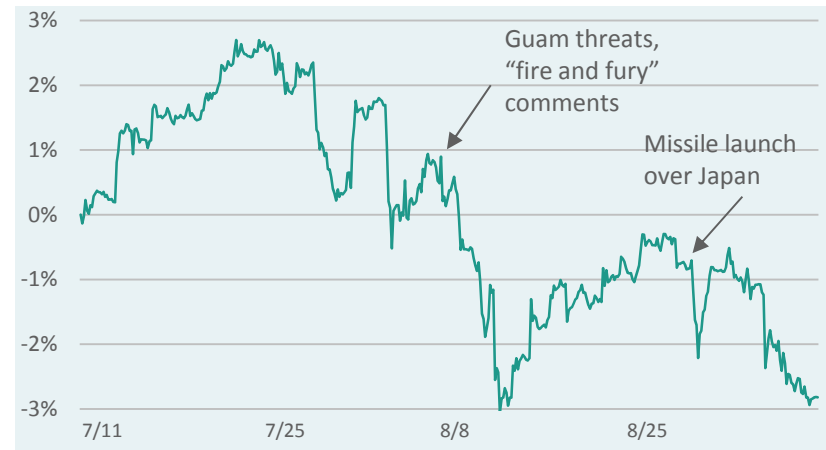
Source: *The Geopolitical Risk Index - Caldarra, Iacoviello, Federal Reserve Board, as of 8/31/17*

North Korea – Market reactions

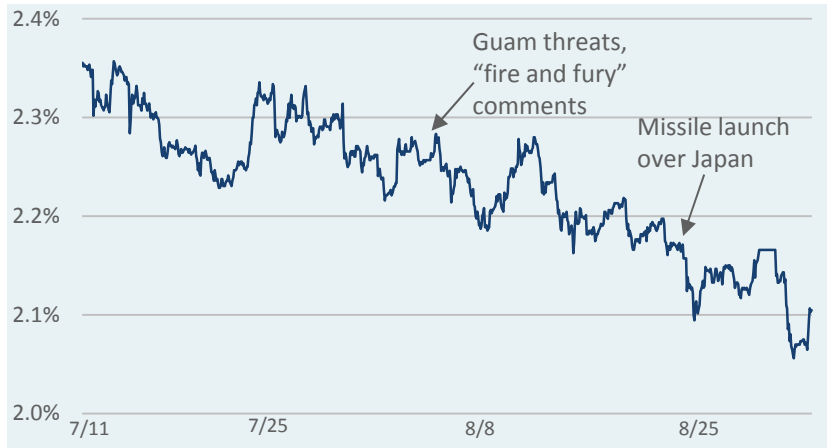
U.S. EQUITY (CUMULATIVE PRICE MOVEMENT)



SOUTH KOREAN EQUITY (CUMULATIVE PRICE MOVEMENT)



U.S. 10-YEAR TREASURY YIELD



GOLD PRICES



Source: Bloomberg, S&P 500, KOSPI, 7/11/17-9/6/17

International economics summary

- International economic growth advanced in the second quarter in both developed and emerging markets. PMIs are above 50 (indicating expansion) in nearly every country across the world, pointing towards a continuation in the recent global growth pickup.
- The IMF raised its projections for global GDP growth 0.1% for both 2017 and 2018 to 3.6% and 3.7%, respectively. For comparison, global GDP growth was 3.2% in 2016.
- Economic conditions in emerging markets have improved. Several countries, such as Brazil and Russia, are still at the beginning stages of a recovery. Lower inflation has allowed emerging central banks to pursue looser monetary policy, which should provide a tailwind to further economic growth.
- Inflation in developed countries has yet to see much pressure outside of the U.K., and remains well below central bank targets.
- Inflation in the U.K. (headline CPI) rose 3.0% YoY in September, driven partly by a weaker pound, while wages only increased by 2.2%. The Bank of England stated that a rate hike may be necessary before the end of the year to slow price increases.
- On October 1st, Catalonia passed a referendum to declare independence from Spain, which the Spanish government declared illegal. Although the Catalan prime minister accepted the vote as a mandate to declare independence, he immediately suspended this declaration with the goal of bringing the Spanish government to the negotiating table.

Area	GDP (Real, YoY)	Inflation (CPI, YoY)	Unemployment
United States	2.2% <i>6/30/17</i>	2.2% <i>9/30/17</i>	4.2% <i>9/30/17</i>
Western Europe	2.0% <i>6/30/17</i>	1.5% <i>9/30/17</i>	7.9% <i>6/30/17</i>
Japan	1.4% <i>6/30/17</i>	0.7% <i>8/31/17</i>	2.8% <i>8/31/17</i>
BRICS Nations	5.6% <i>6/30/17</i>	2.0% <i>6/30/17</i>	5.8% <i>6/30/17</i>
Brazil	0.3% <i>6/30/17</i>	2.5% <i>9/30/17</i>	12.7% <i>9/30/17</i>
Russia	2.5% <i>6/30/17</i>	3.0% <i>9/30/17</i>	4.9% <i>8/31/17</i>
India	5.7% <i>6/30/17</i>	3.3% <i>9/30/17</i>	8.4% <i>12/31/16</i>
China	6.9% <i>6/30/17</i>	1.6% <i>9/30/17</i>	4.0% <i>6/30/17</i>

International economics

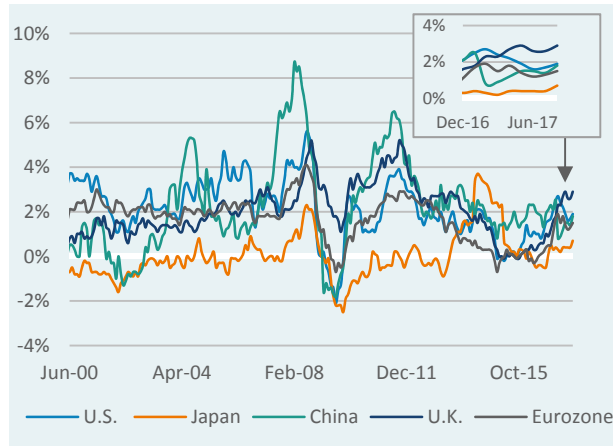
Global surveys indicate a synchronized rise in global growth which may have begun to materialize in Q2. Second quarter GDP growth improved across most countries, especially in Europe and emerging markets.

Real GDP in the Eurozone was 2.3% YoY in Q2, the fastest pace of growth in more than six years. While the ECB has discussed tapering monetary stimulus beginning next year, this will likely be a slow and delicate process. Eurozone financial conditions should continue to be supportive over the next few years. Monetary policy is not expected to change in Japan for the

foreseeable future, and will continue to be a tailwind for the Japanese economy.

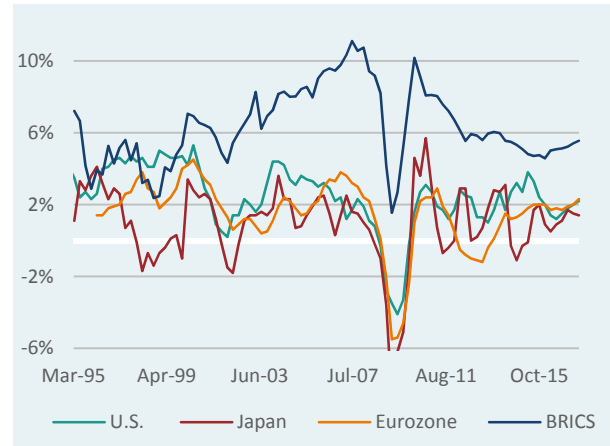
Developed market inflation remains low, with the exception of the U.K. The latest headline CPI reading for the Eurozone and Japan was 1.5% and 0.7%, respectively. Inflation in emerging economies has trended downwards, allowing central banks to cut interest rates to provide monetary stimulus. Many emerging markets are well behind developed markets in the current economic cycle.

INFLATION (CPI)



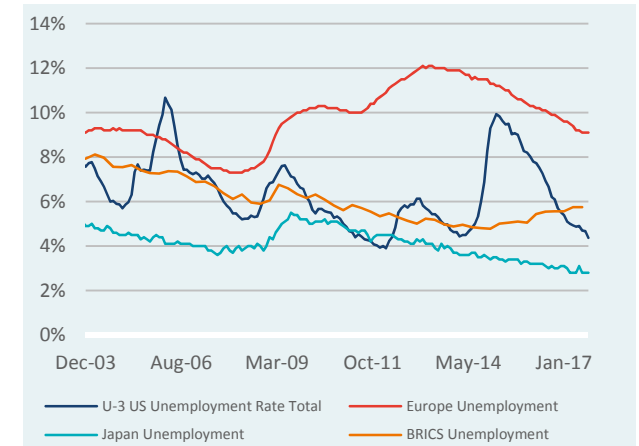
Source: Bloomberg, as of 8/31/17

REAL GDP GROWTH (YOY)



Source: Bloomberg, as of 6/30/17

UNEMPLOYMENT



Source: Bloomberg, as of 8/31/17 or most recent release

Global PMIs

PMI 1 YEAR (CROSS SECTION) – BLUE HIGH / ORANGE LOW

	Oct-16	Nov-16	Dec-16	Jan-17	Feb-17	Mar-17	Apr-17	May-17	Jun-17	Jul-17	Aug-17	Sep-17
Manufacturing												
Global	52	52	53	53	53	53	53	53	53	53	53	53
Developed	53	53	54	54	54	54	54	54	54	54	54	55
US	52	54	55	56	58	57	55	55	58	56	59	61
UK	54	53	56	55	55	54	57	56	54	55	57	56
Eurozone	54	54	55	55	55	56	57	57	57	57	57	58
Germany	55	54	56	56	57	58	58	60	60	58	59	61
Japan	51	51	52	53	53	52	53	53	52	52	52	53
EM	51	51	51	51	51	52	51	51	51	51	52	51
Services												
Global	53	53	53	54	53	54	54	54	54	54	54	54
Developed	54	54	54	55	54	54	54	54	55	55	55	55
US	55	56	57	57	58	55	58	57	57	54	55	60
UK	55	55	56	55	53	55	56	54	53	54	53	54
Eurozone	53	54	54	54	56	56	56	56	55	55	55	56
Germany	54	55	54	53	54	56	55	55	54	53	54	56
Japan	51	52	52	52	51	53	52	53	53	52	52	51
EM	53	54	54	54	56	56	56	56	55	55	55	56

Source: Bloomberg, as of 9/30/17 – PMIs are based on survey data compiled from purchasing and supply managers. Survey questions are asked about several different components of each sector, such as new orders, employment, prices, etc. The final PMI reading is based on the percentage of respondents with a positive view on the sector. A reading above 50 indicates expansion in the sector while a reading below 50 indicates contraction. Historically, PMIs have had a relatively strong positive relationship with actual economic activity.

Fixed income rates & credit

Interest rate environment

- After bottoming out to a post-election low of 2.04% on September 7th following increased tensions with North Korea, the U.S. 10-year rose to finish the quarter slightly higher at 2.33%.
- The Fed kept interest rates unchanged over the quarter, citing concerns over the lack of inflation. However, Fed officials have communicated that they believe recent low inflation is transitory. An additional rate hike in December appears likely based on market implied probabilities.
- The Fed will begin to reduce its balance sheet in October. The central bank's plan is to runoff \$6 billion of Treasuries and \$4 billion of mortgage-backed securities per month. This will be scaled up commensurately every 3 months to \$50 billion per month. At this pace it will take more than seven years to return the balance sheet to pre-crisis levels.
- U.K. sovereign yields experienced the biggest increase among developed countries after the Bank of England acknowledged that a rate hike may be necessary by the end of the year to slow inflation.
- Very little monetary tightening is priced into short-term developed market interest rates over the next few years. Although we expect central banks to be cautious, faster than expected increases in interest rates represents a potential risk.
- Our underweight position to both U.S. and developed sovereign rates (currency hedged) was unchanged over the quarter, primarily due to the low carry. However, Treasuries still play an important role in portfolios by offering equity risk diversification.

Area	Short Term (3M)	10 Year
United States	1.02%	2.33%
Germany	(0.70%)	0.46%
France	(0.59%)	0.74%
Spain	(0.45%)	1.60%
Italy	(0.39%)	2.11%
Greece	2.02%	5.66%
U.K.	0.28%	1.37%
Japan	(0.17%)	0.07%
Australia	1.71%	2.84%
China	3.04%	3.62%
Brazil	7.46%	9.77%
Russia	7.76%	7.66%

Source: Bloomberg, as of 9/30/17

Fed monetary tightening

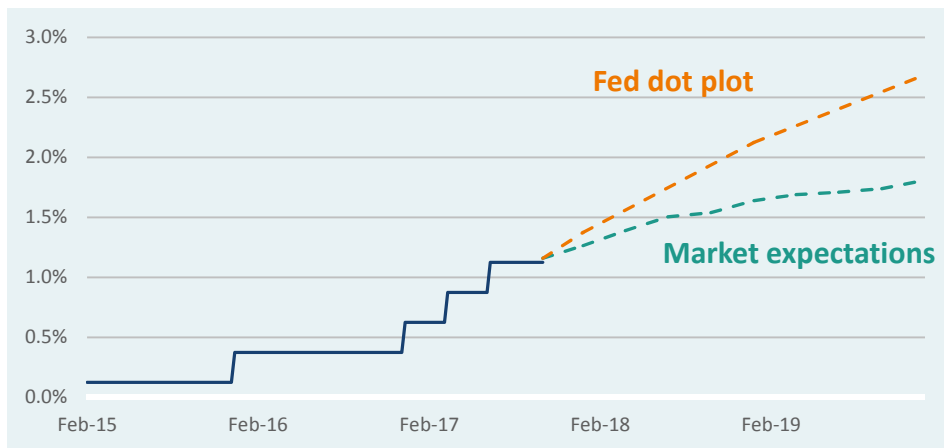
The market's expectation of a rate hike in December increased considerably throughout the quarter to 90%. Although core inflation remained below the official 2% target, several Fed officials have stated they believe the factors dampening inflation are transitory and prices should gradually increase along with wages. According to its own forecast, the Fed is expecting one additional hike this year, three hikes in 2018, and two more in 2019. However, market expectations are much more conservative, pricing in one more hike this year, and only two additional hikes through 2019.

During this tightening cycle the Fed has continually undelivered on projected rate increases. We believe it is reasonable to think this trend will continue since the risk of tightening too quickly outweighs the risk of moving too slowly.

Balance sheet reduction, which began in October also represents a form of gradual tightening. Based on the current plan, the balance sheet will fall by \$1.7 trillion to \$2.8 trillion at the end of 2020. According to the Fed, the runoff will continue as scheduled unless interest rates are brought back down to 0%.

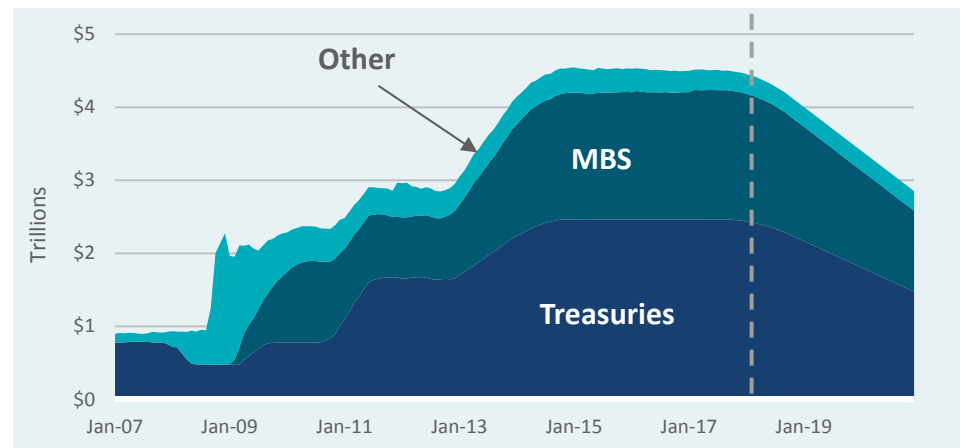
The market is expecting the Fed to move cautiously with further monetary tightening

FED RATE HIKE EXPECTATIONS



Source: Bloomberg, as of 10/6/17

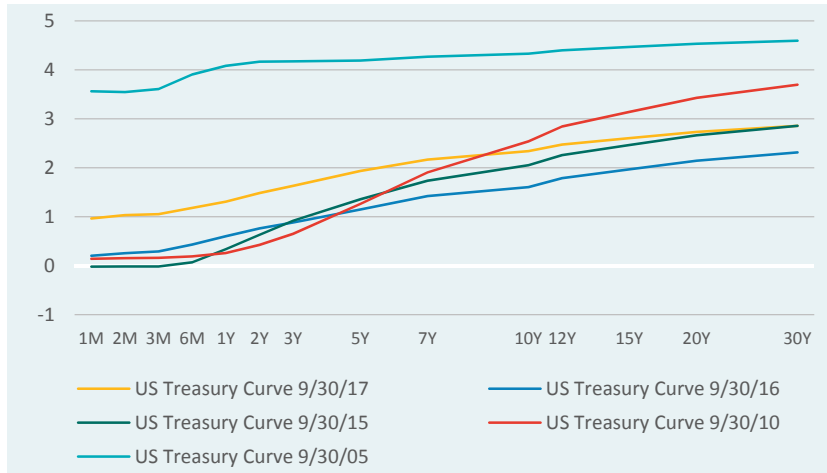
FED BALANCE SHEET REDUCTION EXPECTATIONS



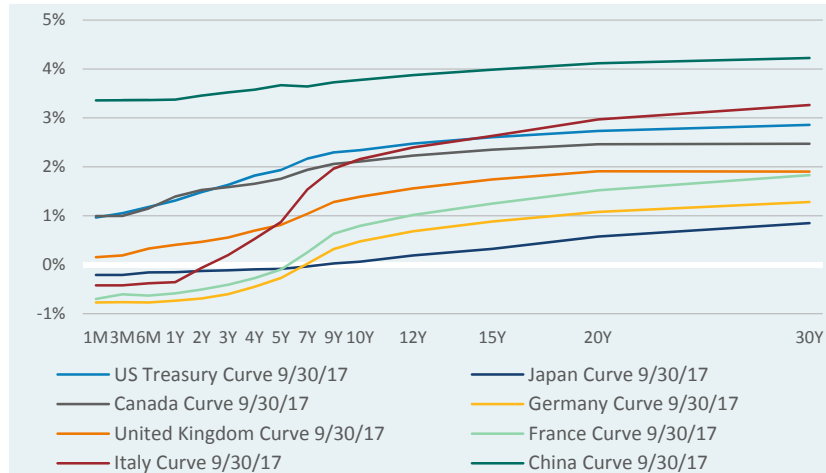
Source: Federal Reserve, as of 9/29/17, projections are based on the Fed's announced reduction plan

Yield environment

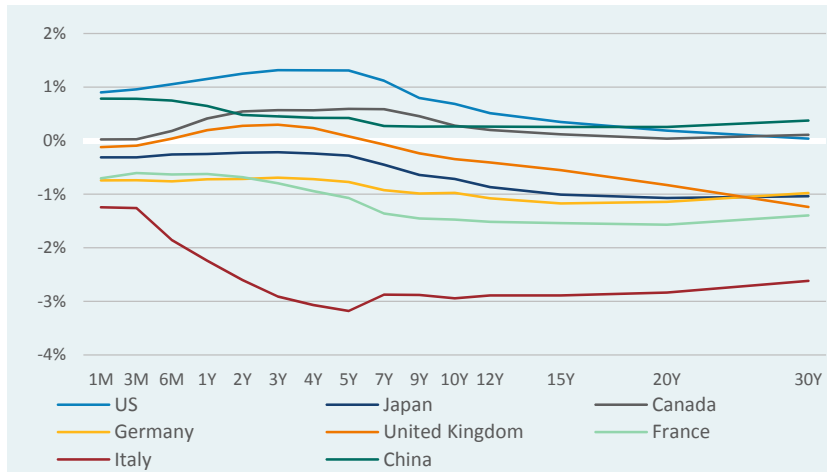
U.S. YIELD CURVE



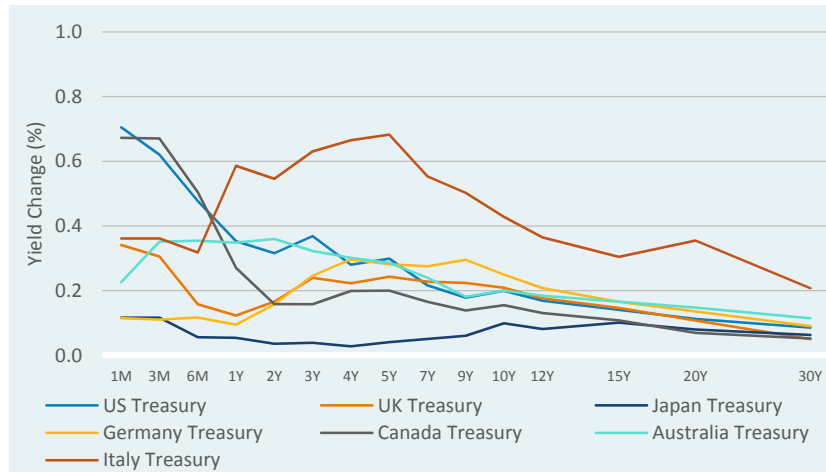
GLOBAL GOVERNMENT YIELD CURVES



YIELD CURVE CHANGES OVER LAST FIVE YEARS



IMPLIED CHANGES OVER NEXT YEAR



Source: Bloomberg, as of 9/30/17

Credit environment

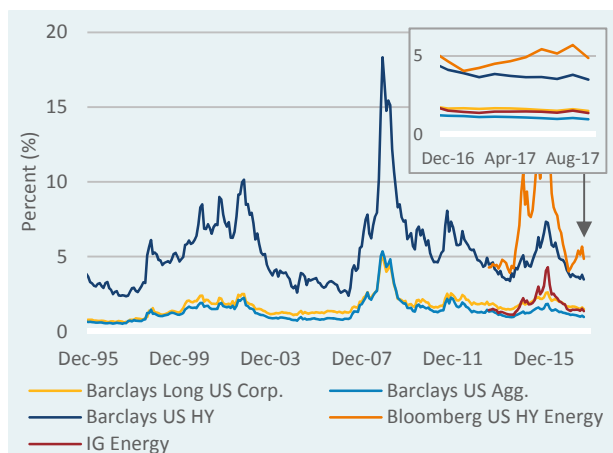
Credit spreads fell slightly over the quarter, remaining at low levels. U.S. high yield option-adjusted spreads compressed in the third quarter to 3.5%, and the asset class generated a 2.0% total return (BBgBarc U.S. Corp. High Yield Index). High yield spreads are tighter than those of bank loans on a duration neutral basis.

Credit spreads have continued to tighten close to multi-year lows, driven by strong corporate fundamentals and general macroeconomic improvement. The combination of tighter credit spreads and additional carry (greater yield) over Treasuries led credit to broadly outperform U.S. Treasuries in

Q3. High yield spreads began the year at 4.0% and have tightened by 51 bps year-to-date. Credit spreads have historically been a good indicator of future performance relative to Treasuries.

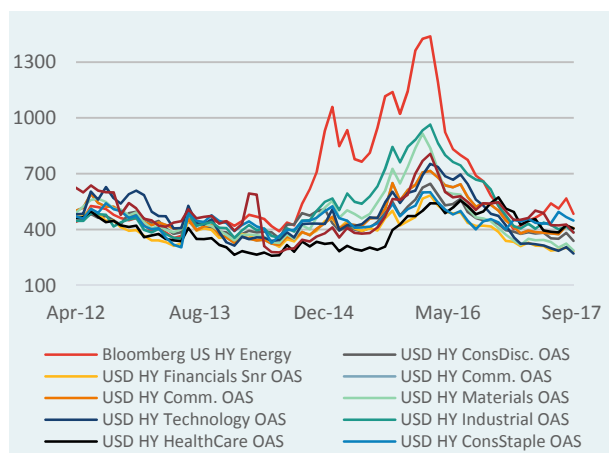
High yield energy spreads compressed over the quarter by 55 bps to 4.8% - a very moderate compression following the 2014 commodity drawdown. Year-to-date, the best performing sectors were financials and utilities. Industrials had weaker performance, most specifically consumer cyclical and the energy sector, which has been recovering from the recent commodity crisis.

HIGH YIELD SECTOR SPREADS



Source: Barclays, Bloomberg, as of 9/30/17

SPREADS



Source: Bloomberg, as of 9/30/17

Market	Credit Spread (9/30/17)	Credit Spread (1 Year Ago)
Long US Corporate	1.5%	2.0%
US Aggregate	1.0%	1.4%
US High Yield	3.5%	4.8%
US High Yield Energy	4.4%	6.1%
US Bank Loans	3.6%	3.9%

Source: Barclays, Credit Suisse, Bloomberg, as of 9/30/17

Issuance and default

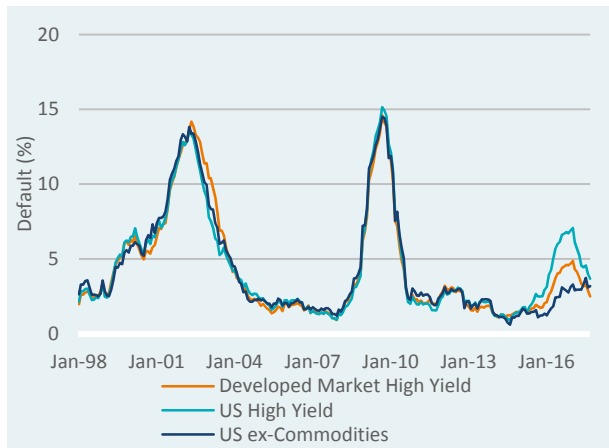
Default activity continued to stabilize in U.S. and international credit markets. Only one U.S. company defaulted in September, the third consecutive month with only one or no defaults, which was the first time this occurred since May 2011. Default volume in the third quarter was the lowest since Q4 2013.

Rolling default rates are currently running below long-term averages. Active management may offer value to investors in the high yield space.

The effects of commodity related defaults are subsiding

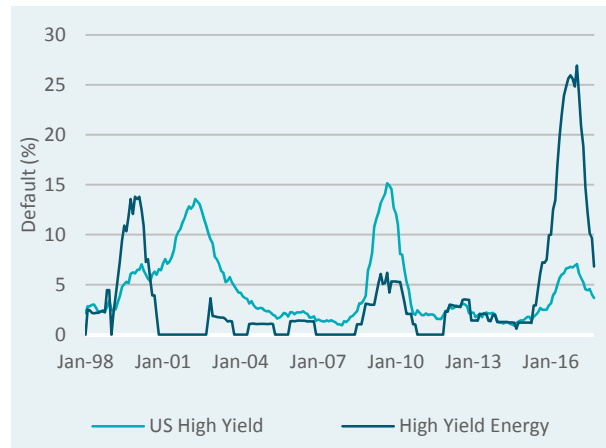
Senior loan and high yield markets stabilized further with the majority of par defaults last year coming from the energy and metals/mining sectors. The retail sector has accounted for the second most defaults.

HY DEFAULT TRENDS (ROLLING 1 YEAR)



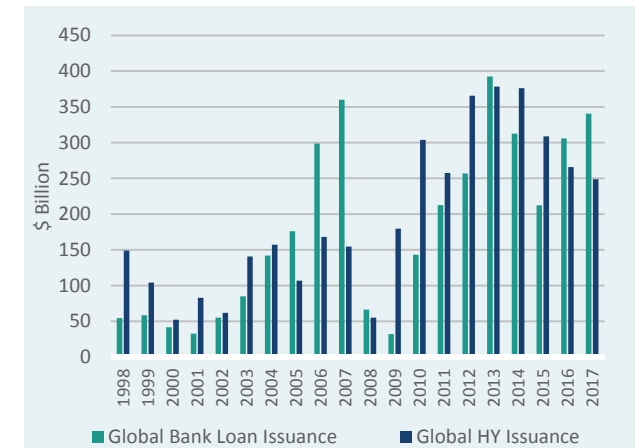
Source: BofA Merrill Lynch, as of 9/30/17

ENERGY DEFAULT TRENDS



Source: BofA Merrill Lynch, as of 9/30/17

GLOBAL ISSUANCE



Source: Bloomberg, BofA Merrill Lynch, as of 9/30/17

Equity

Equity environment

- We maintain a moderate overweight to equities with a preference for emerging markets. Emerging markets have historically delivered outsized economic growth and performance during strong global growth environments. These markets remain attractively valued relative to developed markets, though valuations rose over the quarter.
- U.S. equities moved upward in Q3, setting record highs. Performance has been fueled by earnings growth.
- The possibility of U.S. corporate tax reform has led the market to price in greater expectations for future equity earnings growth. Significant uncertainty remains around the timing and nature of the reform, and the outcome will have a material impact on equity prices in the short-term.
- Equity volatility remains unusually low. Lower volatility has historically indicated less downside risk in equity markets.
- According to FactSet as of October 6th, the estimated Q3 earnings growth rate of the S&P 500 was 2.8% YoY, a materially weaker figure than the 7.5% which was expected as of June 30. Much of the weakness was caused by expected insurance industry losses due to hurricane damage. Excluding the insurance sector, earnings are expected to grow by 4.9% YoY.
- U.S. dollar weakness year-to-date has caused significant earnings differences between companies with greater international sales focus and companies that are more domestically-focused. Overall, U.S. dollar movement has acted as a tailwind to earnings growth.

	QTD TOTAL RETURN		YTD TOTAL RETURN		1 YEAR TOTAL RETURN	
	(unhedged)	(hedged)	(unhedged)	(hedged)	(unhedged)	(hedged)
US Large Cap (Russell 1000)	4.5%		14.2%		18.5%	
US Small Cap (Russell 2000)	5.7%		10.9%		20.7%	
US Large Value (Russell 1000 Value)	3.1%		7.9%		15.1%	
US Large Growth (Russell 1000 Growth)	5.9%		20.7%		21.9%	
International Large (MSCI EAFE)	5.4%	3.7%	20.0%	12.3%	19.1%	20.5%
Eurozone (Euro Stoxx 50)	8.5%	5.2%	25.2%	13.2%	29.2%	24.9%
U.K. (FTSE 100)	4.8%	2.1%	15.7%	7.2%	14.9%	11.9%
Japan (NIKKEI 225)	2.0%	2.7%	12.1%	9.4%	13.4%	27.0%
Emerging Markets (MSCI Emerging Markets)	7.9%	7.2%	27.8%	22.1%	22.5%	19.6%

Source: Russell Investments, MSCI, STOXX, FTSE, Nikkei, as of 9/30/17

Domestic equity

U.S. equities moved upward over the quarter (S&P 500 +4.5%), reaching record highs, but underperformed international markets (MSCI EAFE +5.4%). Earnings growth remained the primary driver of robust equity performance, though Q3 earnings growth expectations have fallen due to hurricane-related insurance industry losses. The possibility of U.S. tax reform has likely contributed to a positive domestic equity outlook.

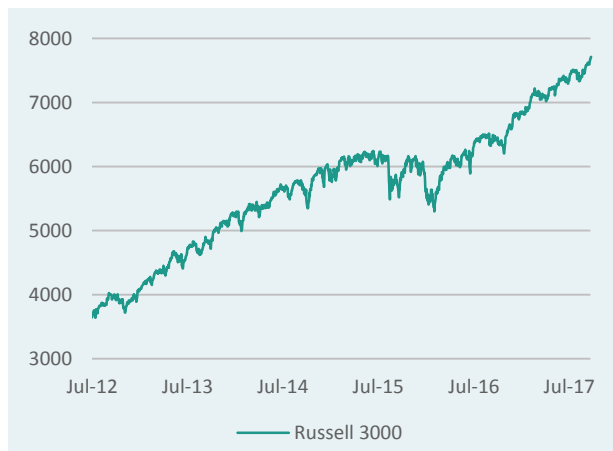
According to FactSet, as of October 6th the estimated Q3 earnings growth rate of the S&P 500 was 2.8% YoY, a

materially weaker figure than the 7.5% which was expected as of June 30. Most of the weakness was caused by insurance industry losses due to hurricane damage. Excluding this sector would result in a current estimate of 4.9% overall growth rather than 2.8%.

U.S. domestically-facing business in aggregate are expected to face flat sales and revenue growth, while externally-facing businesses are expected to produce strong growth. U.S. dollar depreciation and international growth have created a tailwind to the performance of externally-focused U.S. businesses.

We maintain a neutral weight to U.S. equities

U.S. EQUITIES



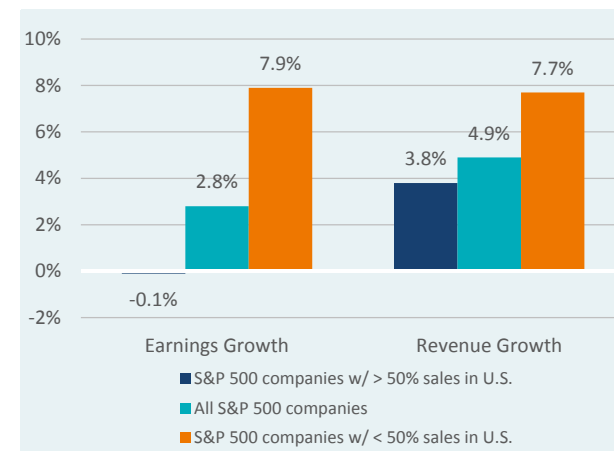
Source: Russell Investments, as of 9/29/17

S&P 500 EPS GROWTH



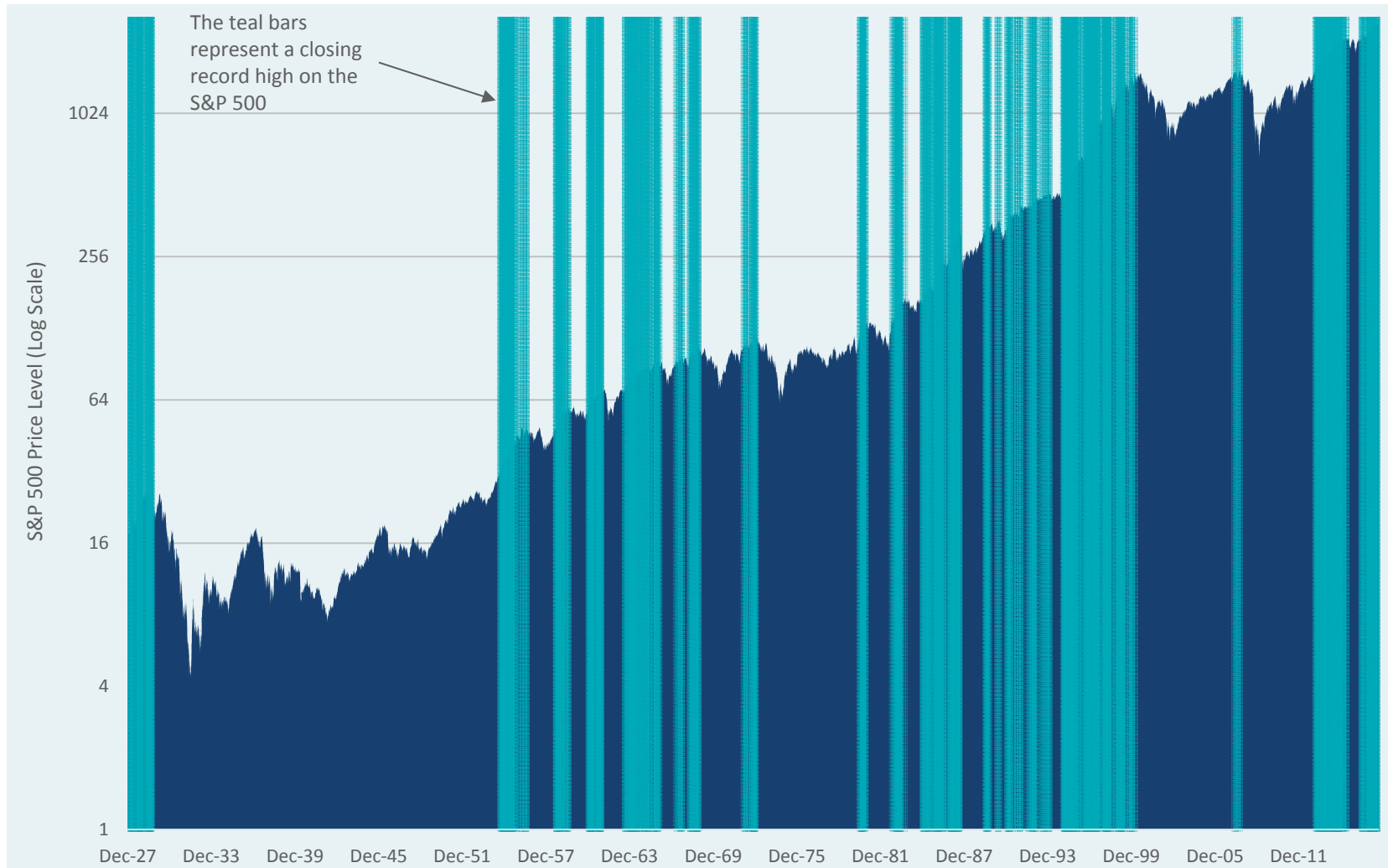
Source: Bloomberg, as of 9/30/17

Q3 EXPECTATIONS



Source: FactSet, as of 10/6/17

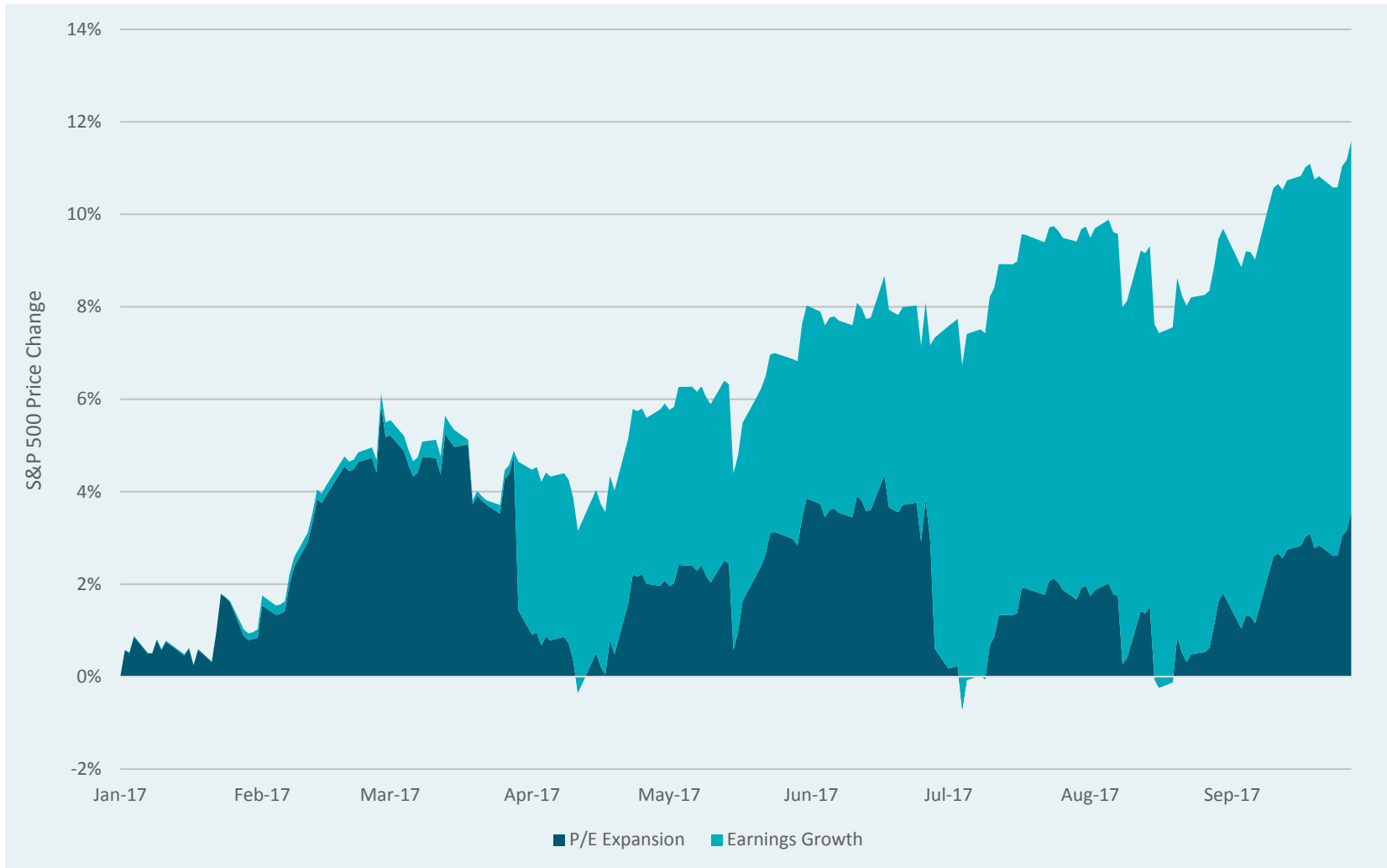
Record highs



Equity market highs are reached on 5% of market trading days

Source: Verus, Bloomberg, as of 9/29/17, based on the closing price

What is driving U.S. equities?



S&P 500 price appreciation has been driven by earnings growth so far this year

Source: Verus, Bloomberg, as of 9/29/17

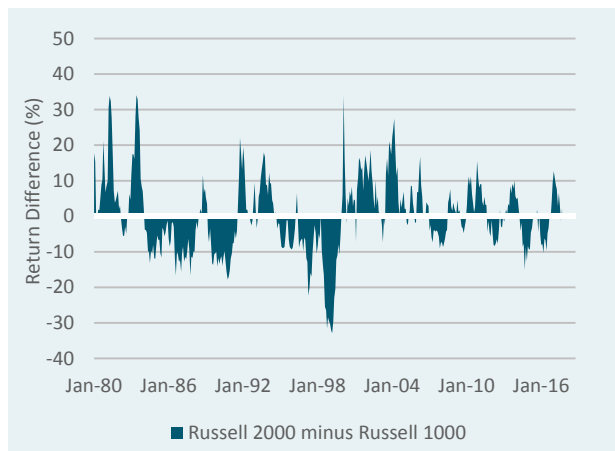
Domestic equity size and style

Large cap equities led small cap equities through July and August. However, small cap equities rallied in September (+6.2% in the month) and outperformed large cap equities over the quarter. The move in September was partially attributed to an increased focus on U.S. tax reform. If passed, tax cuts will likely provide a greater marginal benefit to smaller companies. Expectations of lower taxes and deregulation have contributed to small cap price appreciation that has outpaced earnings. The relative P/E ratio between large and small companies is at its highest level since the financial crisis.

Large cap equities were led by the technology sector, from which the strongest contributors were semiconductor and internet software companies. The top three individual contributors were Apple, Facebook and Microsoft. Small cap equities were mainly driven by producer durables companies.

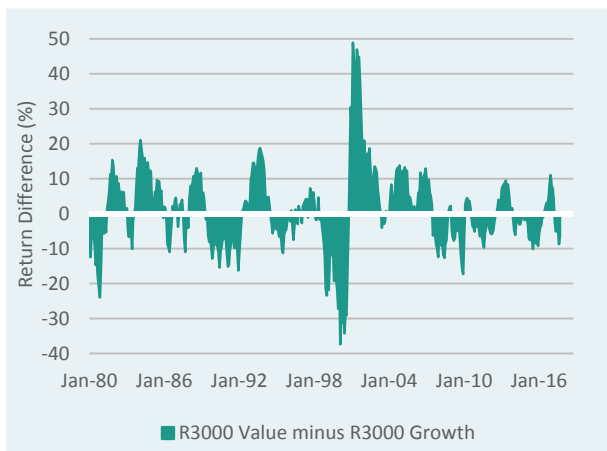
Growth outperformed value in Q3 due to a higher relative weighting to technology companies. Financial services, the most heavily weighted sector in value, returned a positive 5.0%, but still underperformed technology by 3.2%.

SMALL CAP VS LARGE CAP (YOY)



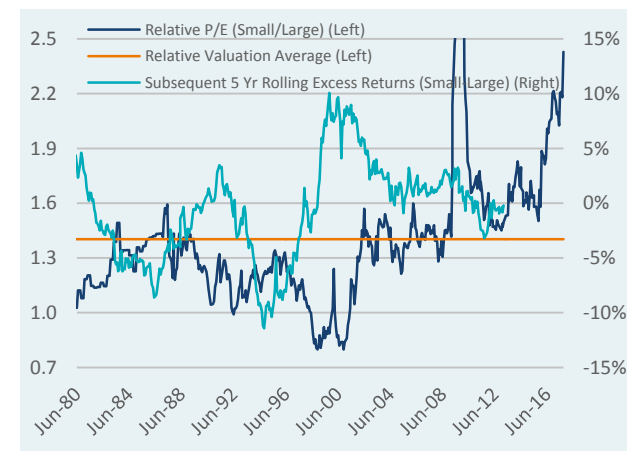
Source: Russell Investments, as of 9/30/17

VALUE VS GROWTH (YOY)



Source: Russell Investments, as of 9/30/17

U.S. LARGE VS. SMALL RELATIVE VALUATIONS



Source: Russell, Bloomberg, as of 9/30/17

International equity

International equities outperformed domestic equities during the third quarter. The MSCI ACWI ex U.S. returned 6.2% (+4.6% hedged) while the S&P 500 returned 4.5%. Consistent with the first half of 2017, emerging markets outperformed (MSCI EM +7.9% unhedged) both the EAFE Small Cap Index (+7.5%) and the broad EAFE Index (+5.4%).

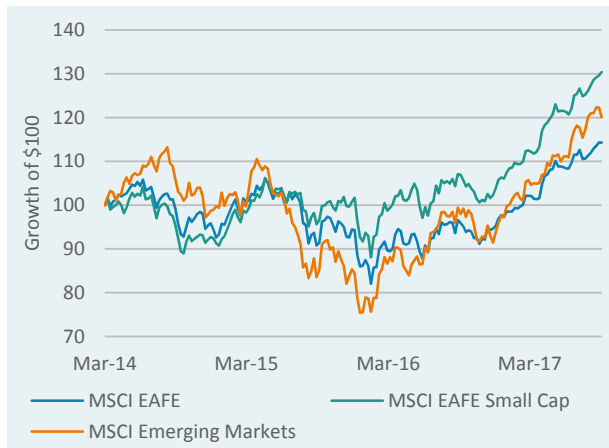
Japanese equities were the largest contributors to the EAFE index in Q3, particularly companies within the industrials and consumer discretionary sectors. Despite the positive moves, Japanese equity valuations based on earnings and

sales remain attractive relative to those in Europe and the United Kingdom.

MSCI EAFE valuations have remained relatively stable in 2017 as earnings and sales growth have kept pace with price appreciation.

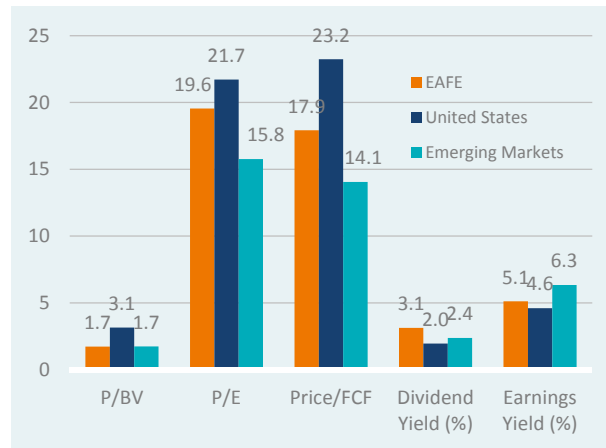
Currency effects added a positive 1.7% to the unhedged MSCI EAFE in Q3 (+7.6% year-to-date), as the U.S. dollar fell for a third consecutive quarter against a trade weighted basket of currencies.

GLOBAL EQUITY PERFORMANCE



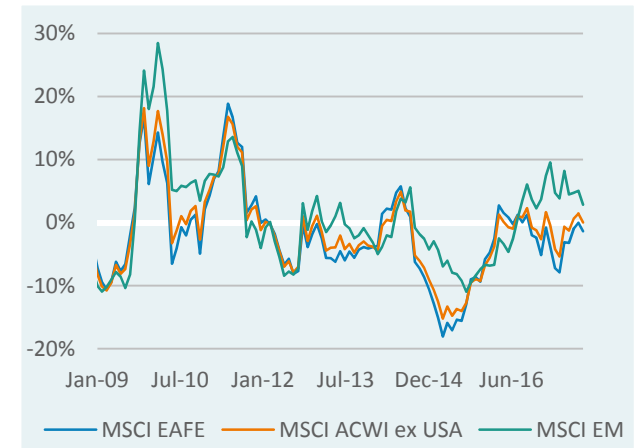
Source: Bloomberg, as of 9/30/17

VALUATIONS



Source: Bloomberg, as of 9/30/17

EFFECT OF CURRENCY (1 YEAR ROLLING)



Source: MSCI, as of 9/30/17

Emerging market equity

We maintain an overweight to emerging market equities, which have historically delivered outsized economic growth and performance during stronger global growth environments.

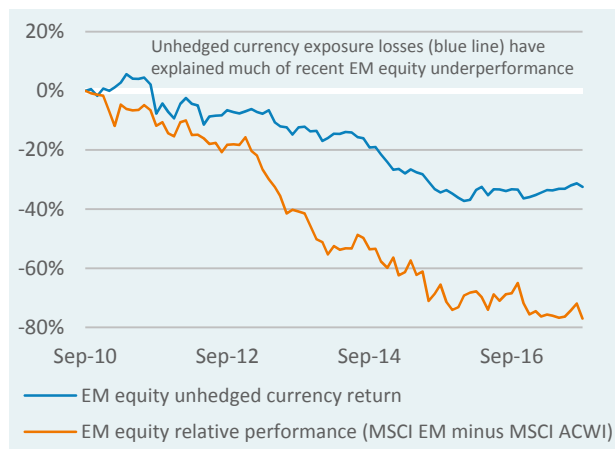
Emerging market equities have outperformed developed markets over the quarter (7.9% vs. 4.8%) and the past year (22.5% vs 18.2%), reversing an extended period of underperformance following the global financial crisis. Currency movement was a significant contributor to

emerging market underperformance during this time, and the recent reversal in currency trends has been additive to the outperformance of these markets.

Valuations have risen off of low levels, bolstering returns. These markets are no longer cheap relative to history though strong earnings growth and mean reversion of currencies could likely fuel further outsized equity gains.

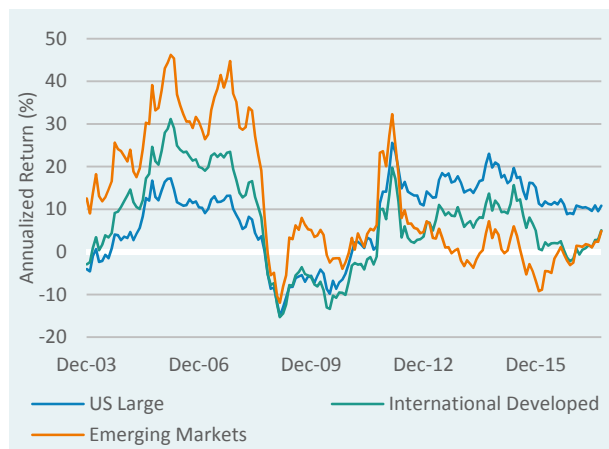
Accelerating global growth should have a positive effect on emerging economies

EMERGING MARKET FX & RELATIVE PERFORMANCE (7YR CUMULATIVE)



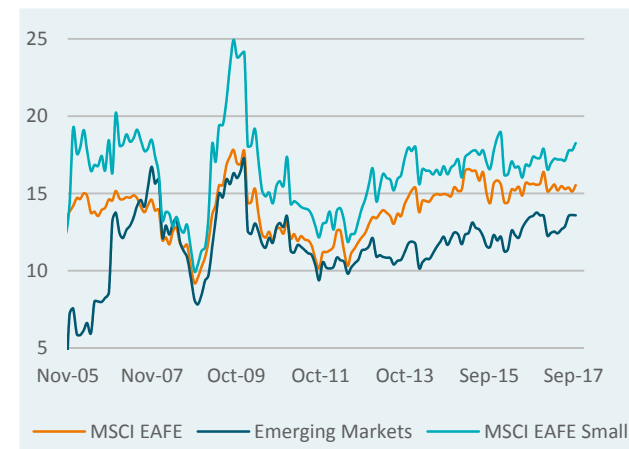
Source: MSCI, JP Morgan EM Currency Index, as of 9/30/17

EQUITY PERFORMANCE (3YR ROLLING)



Source: Standard & Poor's, MSCI, as of 9/30/17

FORWARD P/E RATIOS



Source: Bloomberg as of 9/30/17

Emerging markets – High “growth beta”

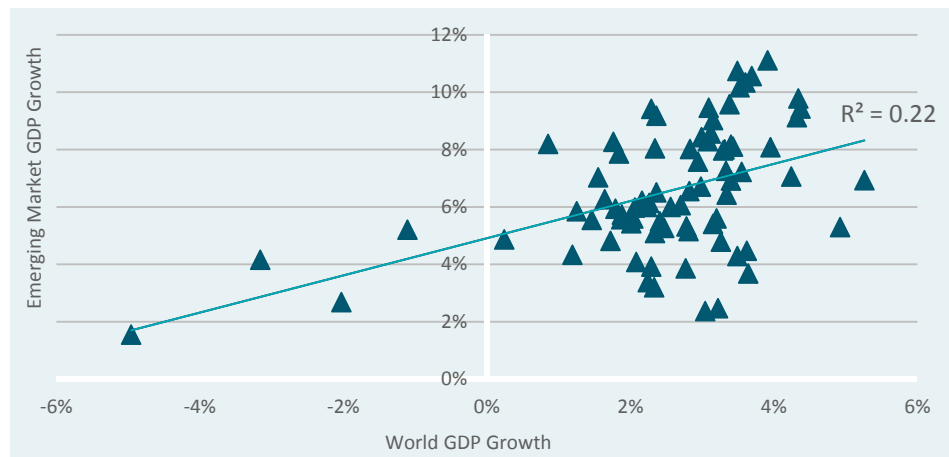
During Q3 the trend of coordinated global economic growth continued. Emerging market equities materially outperformed global equities over the quarter (7.9% MSCI EM vs. 5.2% MSCI ACWI) and year-to-date (27.8% vs. 17.3%).

Emerging markets have historically performed well during periods of global growth acceleration, in terms of both equity performance and underlying economic growth.

The relationship between emerging market equities and world economic growth has historically exhibited a beta of 9.6. This suggests that, on average, investors might expect a 1% improvement in global growth to result in emerging market equity outperformance of 9.6%.

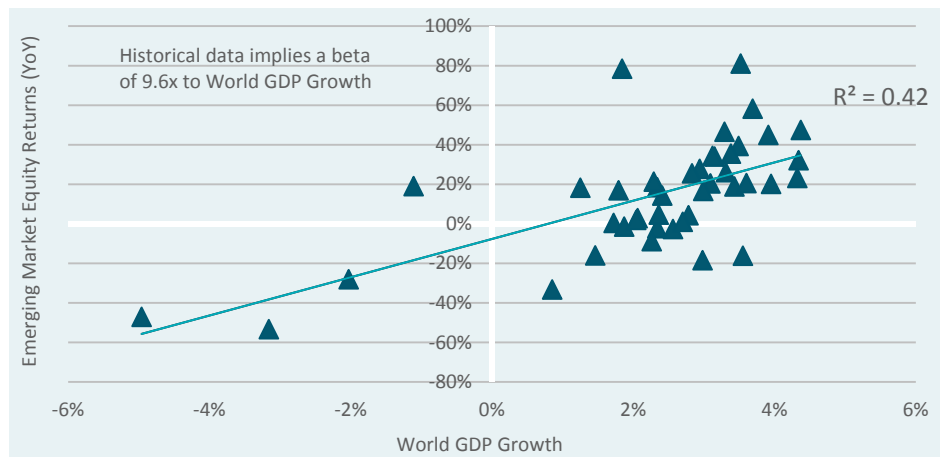
It is important to note that this relationship has also held on the downside, as emerging markets tend to produce poor returns during weak growth environments.

EM GROWTH RELATIONSHIP TO GLOBAL GROWTH



Source: Bloomberg, since 1996 – BRICS used to represent emerging market economic growth

EM EQUITY PERFORMANCE RELATIONSHIP TO GLOBAL GROWTH



Source: Bloomberg, since 1996 - MSCI

Equity valuations

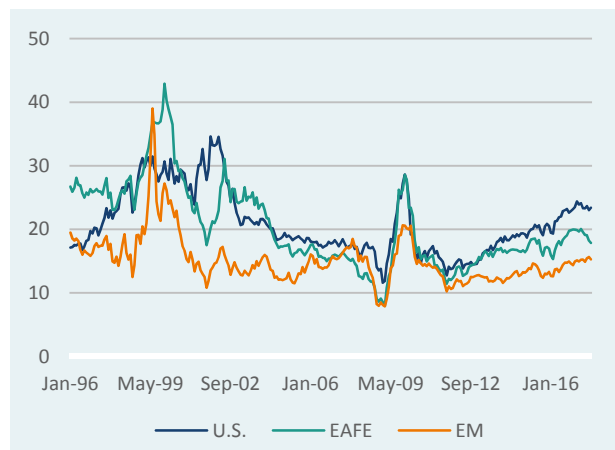
Equity valuations remain elevated compared to history, although recent price appreciation has been driven by earnings growth as opposed to multiple expansion. In international developed markets (EAFE), earnings growth over the past two quarters has outpaced price appreciation, leading to a slight decline in P/E ratios. The opposite has occurred in emerging markets where strong price gains have resulted in higher valuations. Relative to developed countries, emerging equities still appear attractive from a valuation perspective but are no longer considered cheap. Other valuation measures such as price-to-sales (P/S) ratios

also indicate equity prices are rich, especially in the U.S. The P/S ratio at the end of September was 2.1, the highest level since 2000. During this cycle, sales growth has lagged earnings growth (per share), influenced by expanding profit margins and an increase in equity buybacks.

Historically, higher valuations have led to lower future returns over the medium-term, on average. However, valuations can remain elevated for long periods of time and may be partially justified given the current environment of low interest rates and inflation.

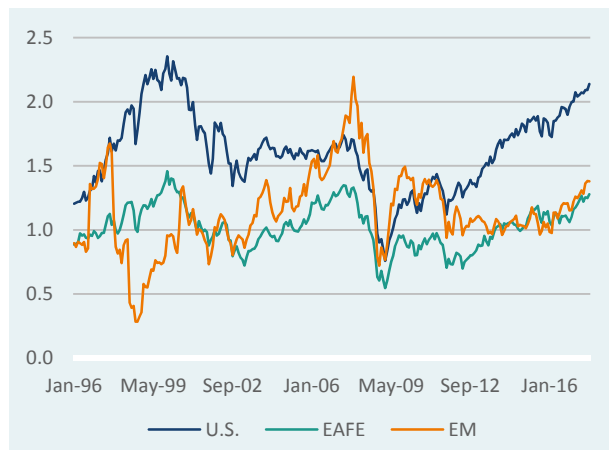
Valuations are elevated, but relative opportunities exist

TRAILING P/E RATIOS



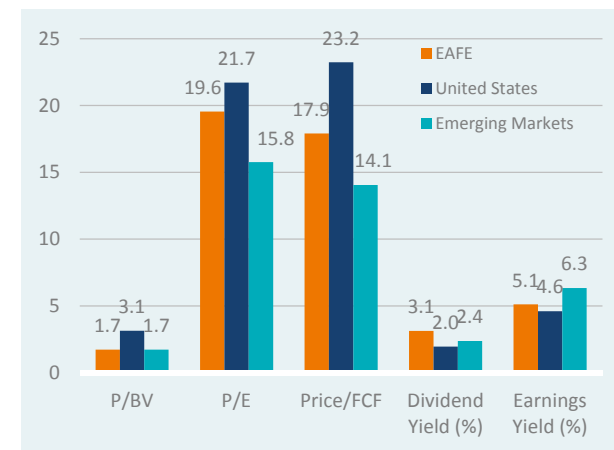
Source: Bloomberg, as of 9/30/17

TRAILING PRICE-TO-SALES RATIOS



Source: Bloomberg, as of 9/30/17

CURRENT VALUATION METRICS



Source: Bloomberg, as of 9/30/17

Equity volatility

Despite a rise in geopolitical risks, including tensions on the Korean peninsula, realized volatility in equities over the quarter was extremely low, consistent with recent trends. In September, S&P 500 annualized volatility was 5%, the lowest level for a calendar month on record.

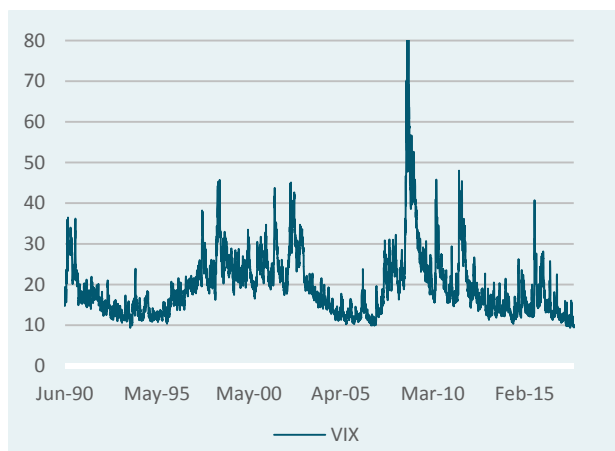
While many market participants have voiced concern over complacency, low volatility generally accompanies bull markets. We continue to watch volatility trends closely, but at this time do not view the current environment as a bearish signal. For investors in strategies with specific

volatility targets, such as risk parity, it is important to be aware of rising equity exposure and leverage. A spike in volatility may lead to forced equity selling during a downturn in order to maintain the risk target.

The CBOE Skew Index, which looks at the steepness of the volatility curve, is above its historical average. This indicates investors are still paying a premium for downside protection.

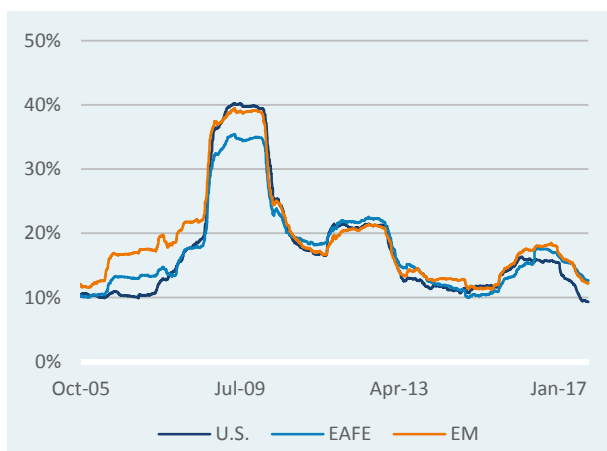
Equity volatility has trended downwards

U.S. IMPLIED VOLATILITY



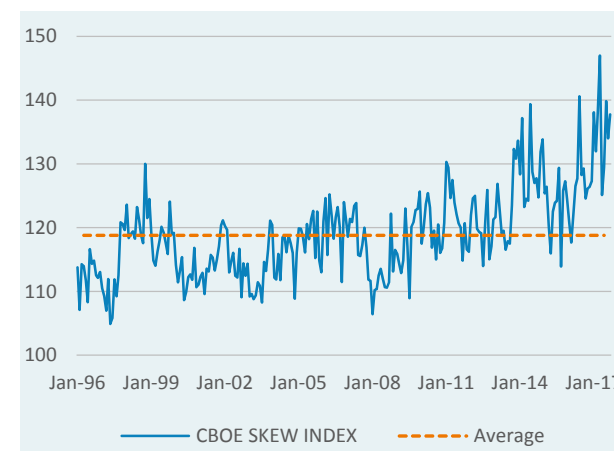
Source: CBOE, as of 9/30/17

REALIZED 1-YEAR ROLLING VOLATILITY



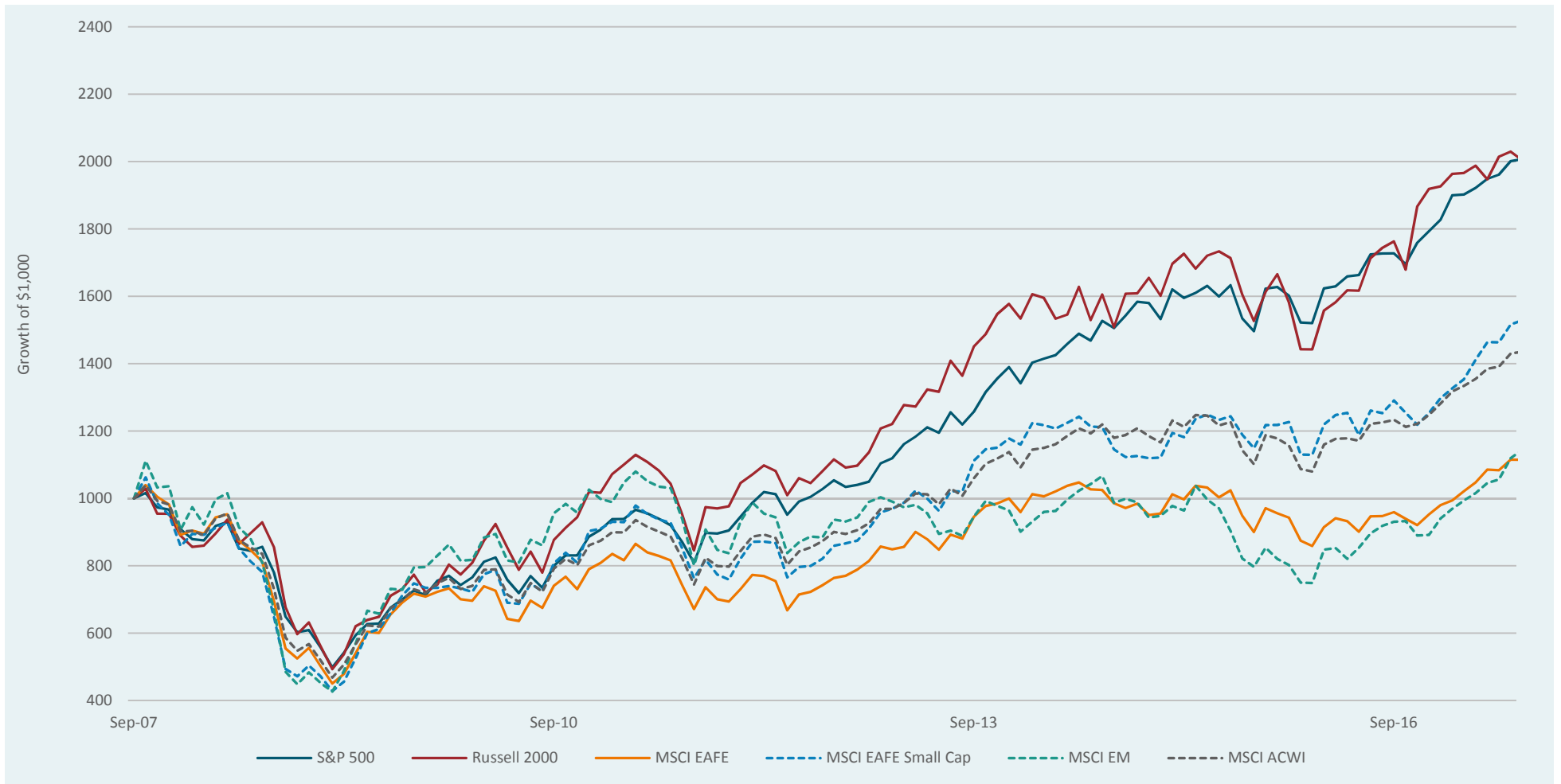
Source: Bloomberg, as of 9/30/17

U.S. VOLATILITY SKEW



Source: CBOE, as of 9/30/17

Long-term equity performance



Source: MPI, as of 9/30/17

Other assets

Hedge funds

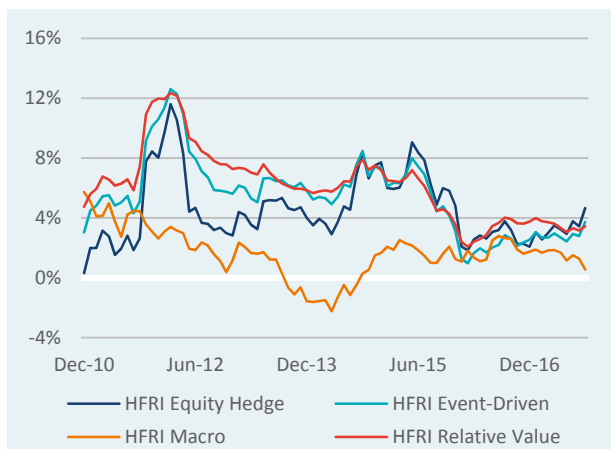
In aggregate, hedge funds returned 2.2% during Q3 and 5.5% year-to-date per HFRI. Equity hedge strategies were the top performer for both periods as they gained 3.5% and 9.6%, respectively. Short biased funds stood out as the only negative sub strategy during Q3, which is typical during equity rallies. Funds with greater net-long market exposure benefited from strong year-to-date equity market returns.

Emerging market hedge funds were notable winners this year as HFRI reported performance of 4.8% for Q3 and 14.7% year-to-date. Funds focused on Latin America (+10.2% for Q3,

16.5% YTD) were particularly strong performers. Those markets rallied due in part to a combination of pro-business politicians retaining power, improving economic growth prospects and stabilizing commodity markets.

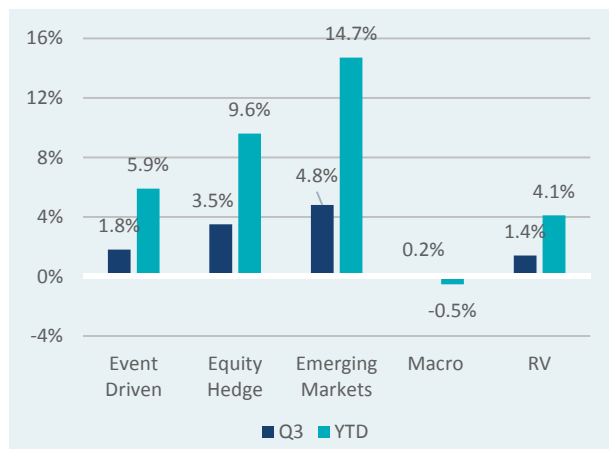
We are closely monitoring volatility levels because we understand that sudden changes in volatility regimes can negatively impact high gross leverage strategies. Our concerns are somewhat balanced due to more normal net leverage levels.

3-YEAR ROLLING STYLE PERFORMANCE



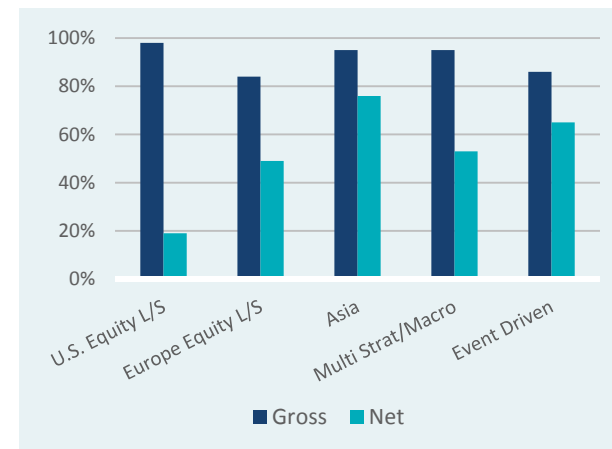
Source: HFRI, as of 9/30/17

Q3 & YTD STYLE PERFORMANCE



Source: HFRI, as of 9/30/17

LEVERAGE (PERCENTILE RANK SINCE 2010)



Source: Morgan Stanley, as of 9/30/17

Currency

The U.S. dollar depreciated an additional 2.7% in Q3 against a trade weighted basket of developed currencies, which brought the year-to-date decline to 8.0%. The downward trend partially reversed in September after prospects of another interest rate hike in December from the Fed helped lead to the first month of dollar appreciation so far this year. The euro appreciated 3.4% against the dollar over the quarter, influenced by improving economic conditions and the possibility of ECB tightening monetary policy.

After several years of depreciation, emerging market

currencies have stabilized. Improved current account balances and economic growth conditions have provided a positive backdrop for these currencies moving forward. However, a quicker than expected rise in U.S. interest rates could represent a headwind to further appreciation.

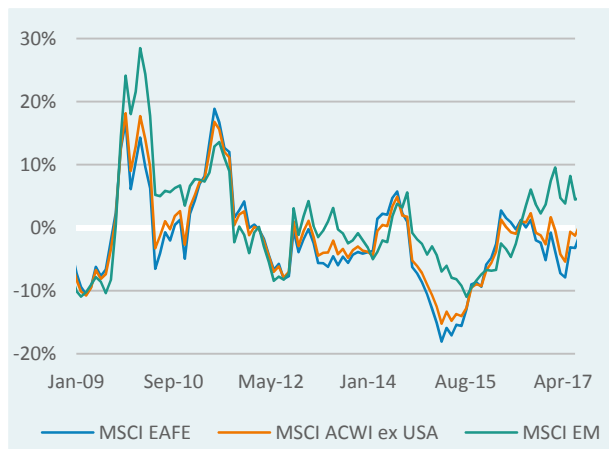
Currency losses from unhedged exposure to developed international equities has begun to reverse due to recent dollar weakness, although currency exposure has still resulted in materially higher volatility.

U.S. DOLLAR TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX



Source: Federal Reserve, as of 9/30/17

EFFECT OF CURRENCY (1-YEAR ROLLING)



Source: MPI, as of 9/30/17

JPM EM CURRENCY INDEX



Source: JPMorgan, as of 9/30/17

Appendix

Periodic table of returns

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	YTD	5-Year	10-Year
Emerging Markets Equity	16.6	38.4	23.2	35.2	38.7	66.4	31.8	14.0	25.9	56.3	26.0	34.5	32.6	39.8	5.2	79.0	29.1	14.3	18.6	43.3	13.5	13.3	31.7	27.8	15.3	9.1
Large Cap Growth	8.1	37.8	23.1	32.9	27.0	43.1	22.8	8.4	10.3	48.5	22.2	21.4	26.9	16.2	1.4	37.2	26.9	7.8	18.1	38.8	13.2	5.7	21.3	20.7	14.3	8.5
International Equity	6.4	37.2	22.4	31.8	20.3	33.2	12.2	7.3	6.7	47.3	20.7	20.1	23.5	15.8	-6.5	34.5	24.5	2.6	17.9	34.5	13.0	0.9	17.3	20.0	14.3	7.8
Small Cap Growth	4.4	31.0	21.6	30.5	19.3	27.3	11.6	3.3	1.6	46.0	18.3	14.0	22.2	11.8	-21.4	32.5	19.2	1.5	17.5	33.5	11.8	0.6	12.1	16.8	13.8	7.5
Large Cap Equity	3.2	28.5	21.4	22.4	16.2	26.5	7.0	2.8	1.0	39.2	16.5	7.5	18.4	11.6	-25.9	28.4	16.8	0.4	16.4	33.1	6.0	0.0	11.8	14.2	13.3	7.1
60/40 Global Portfolio	2.6	25.7	16.5	16.2	15.6	24.3	6.0	2.5	-5.9	30.0	14.5	7.1	16.6	10.9	-28.9	27.2	16.7	0.1	16.3	32.5	5.6	-0.4	11.3	12.7	13.2	6.4
Small Cap Equity	0.4	19.6	14.4	13.9	8.7	21.3	4.1	-2.4	-6.0	29.9	14.3	6.3	15.5	10.3	-33.8	23.3	16.1	-2.1	15.3	23.3	4.9	-0.8	11.2	10.9	10.5	5.9
Large Cap Value	-1.5	18.5	11.3	12.9	4.9	20.9	-3.0	-5.6	-11.4	29.7	12.9	5.3	15.1	7.0	-35.6	20.6	15.5	-2.9	14.6	12.1	4.2	-1.4	8.0	7.9	8.4	4.3
Small Cap Value	-1.8	15.2	10.3	10.6	1.2	13.2	-7.3	-9.1	-15.5	25.2	11.4	4.7	13.3	7.0	-36.8	19.7	13.1	-4.2	11.5	11.0	3.4	-2.5	7.1	5.7	6.3	4.0
Hedge Funds of Funds	-2.0	11.6	9.9	9.7	-2.5	11.4	-7.8	-9.2	-15.7	23.9	9.1	4.6	10.4	5.8	-37.6	18.9	10.2	-5.5	10.5	9.0	2.8	-3.8	5.7	5.5	4.0	1.3
Real Estate	-2.4	11.1	6.4	5.2	-5.1	7.3	-14.0	-12.4	-20.5	11.6	6.9	4.6	9.1	4.4	-38.4	11.5	8.2	-5.7	4.8	0.1	0.0	-4.4	2.6	3.3	3.8	1.3
US Bonds	-2.9	7.5	6.0	2.1	-6.5	4.8	-22.4	-19.5	-21.7	9.0	6.3	4.2	4.8	-0.2	-38.5	5.9	6.5	-11.7	4.2	-2.0	-1.8	-7.5	1.0	3.1	2.1	1.1
Cash	-3.5	5.7	5.1	-3.4	-25.3	-0.8	-22.4	-20.4	-27.9	4.1	4.3	3.2	4.3	-1.6	-43.1	0.2	5.7	-13.3	0.1	-2.3	-4.5	-14.9	0.5	0.6	0.2	0.4
Commodities	-7.3	-5.2	3.6	-11.6	-27.0	-1.5	-30.6	-21.2	-30.3	1.0	1.4	2.4	2.1	-9.8	-53.2	-16.9	0.1	-18.2	-1.1	-9.5	-17.0	-24.7	0.3	-2.9	-10.5	-6.8

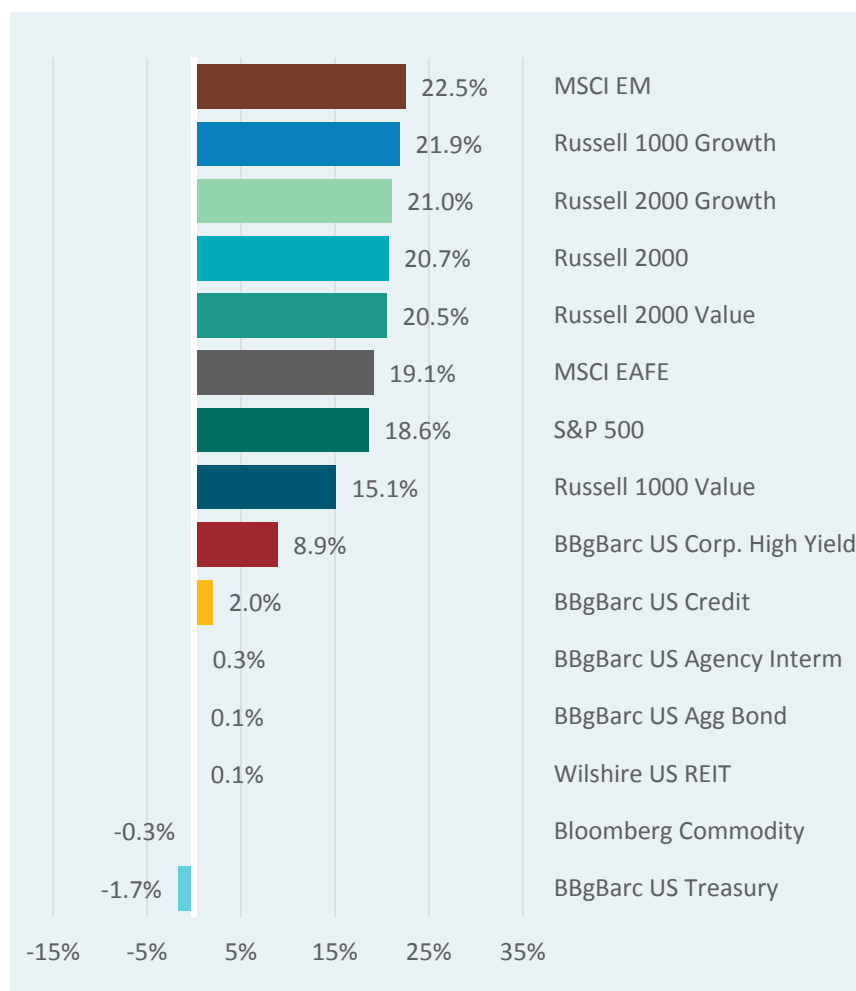
WORST

- Large Cap Equity
- Small Cap Growth
- Commodities
- Large Cap Value
- International Equity
- Real Estate
- Large Cap Growth
- Emerging Markets Equity
- Hedge Funds of Funds
- US Bonds
- 60% MSCI ACWI/40% BBgBarc Global Bond
- Cash

Source Data: Morningstar, Inc., Hedge Fund Research, Inc. (HFR), National Council of Real Estate Investment Fiduciaries (NCREIF). Indices used: Russell 1000, Russell 1000 Value, Russell 1000 Growth, Russell 2000, Russell 2000 Value, Russell 2000 Growth, MSCI EAFE, MSCI EM, BBgBarc US Aggregate, T-Bill 90 Day, Bloomberg Commodity, NCREIF Property, HFRI FOF, MSCI ACWI, BBgBarc Global Bond. NCREIF Property Index performance data as of 6/30/17.

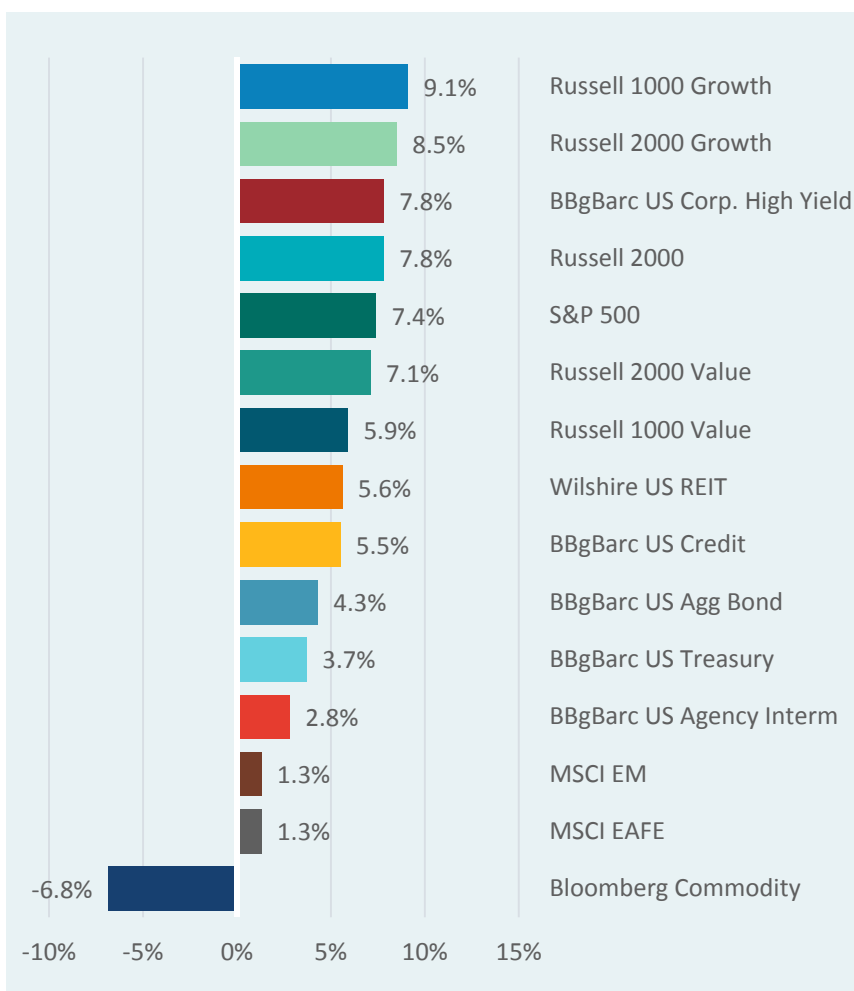
Major asset class returns

ONE YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER



Source: Morningstar, as of 9/30/17

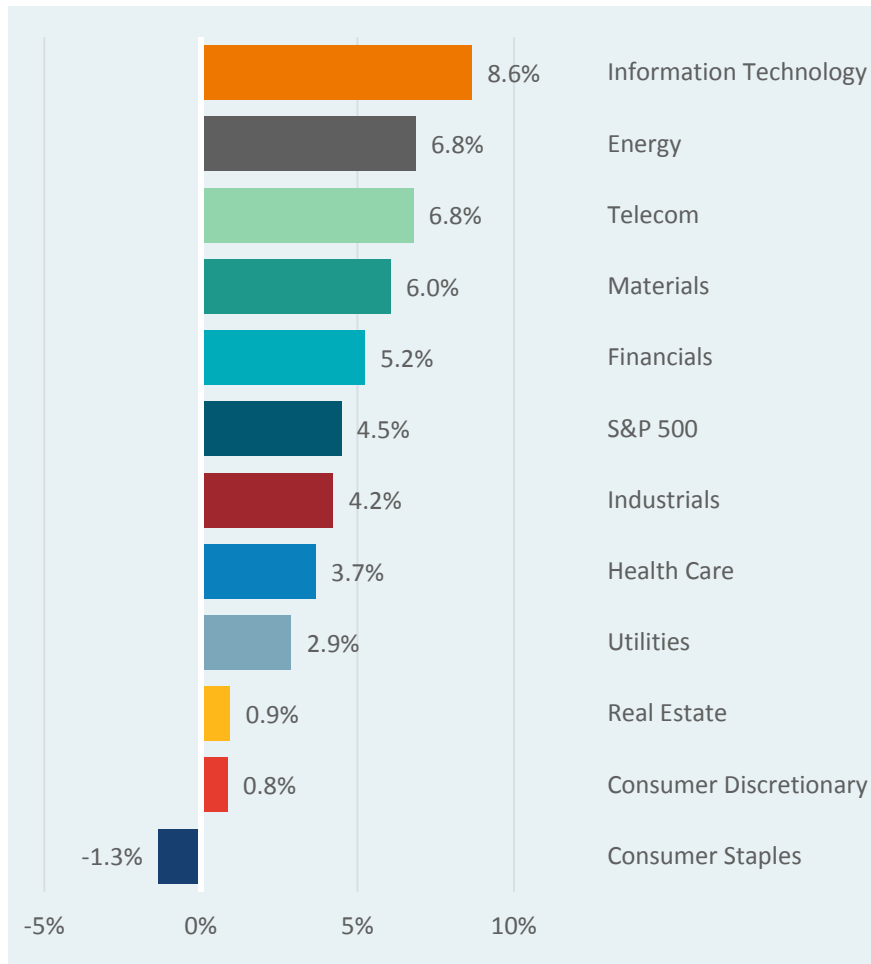
TEN YEARS ENDING SEPTEMBER



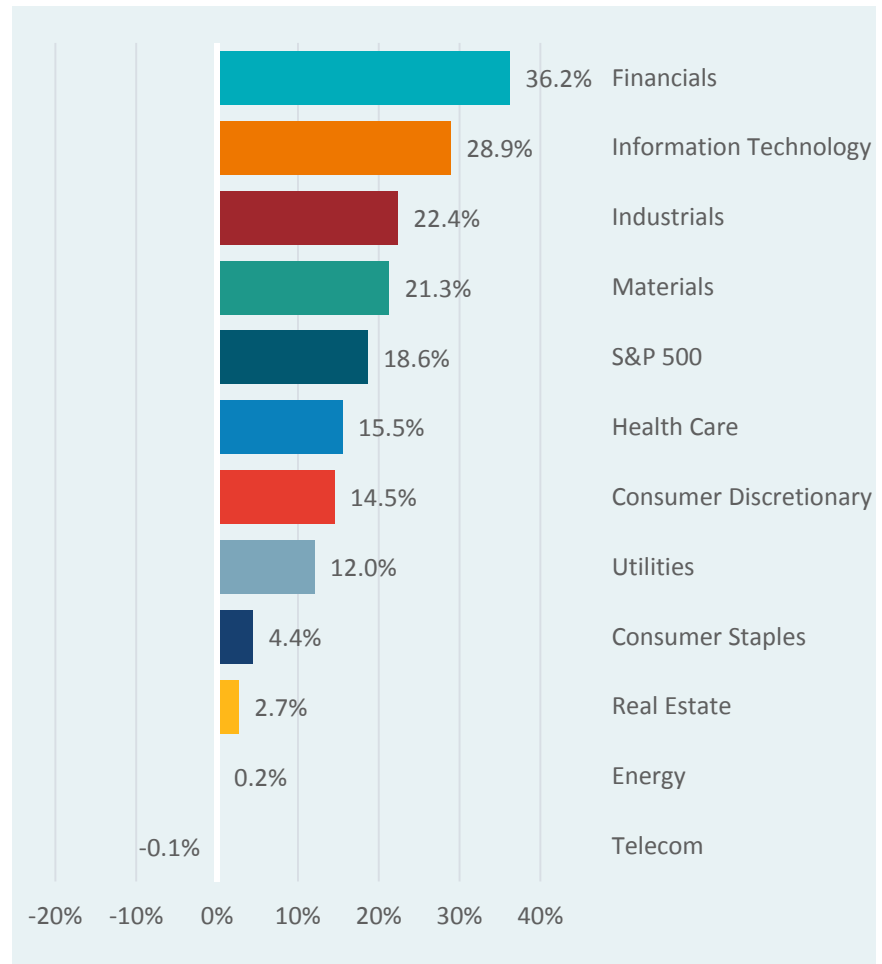
Source: Morningstar, as of 9/30/17

S&P 500 sector returns

3RD QUARTER



ONE YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER



Source: Morningstar, as of 9/30/17

Source: Morningstar, as of 9/30/17

Detailed index returns

DOMESTIC EQUITY

	Month	QTD	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year
Core Index							
S&P 500	2.1	4.5	14.2	18.6	10.8	14.2	7.4
S&P 500 Equal Weighted	2.9	3.6	11.9	16.2	10.1	15.0	8.9
DJ Industrial Average	2.2	5.6	15.5	25.5	12.3	13.6	7.7
Russell Top 200	1.9	4.9	15.1	19.8	11.1	14.3	7.3
Russell 1000	2.1	4.5	14.2	18.5	10.6	14.3	7.5
Russell 2000	6.2	5.7	10.9	20.7	12.2	13.8	7.8
Russell 3000	2.4	4.6	13.9	18.7	10.7	14.2	7.6
Russell Mid Cap	2.8	3.5	11.7	15.3	9.5	14.3	8.1
Style Index							
Russell 1000 Growth	1.3	5.9	20.7	21.9	12.7	15.3	9.1
Russell 1000 Value	3.0	3.1	7.9	15.1	8.5	13.2	5.9
Russell 2000 Growth	5.4	6.2	16.8	21.0	12.2	14.3	8.5
Russell 2000 Value	7.1	5.1	5.7	20.5	12.1	13.3	7.1

INTERNATIONAL EQUITY

	Month	QTD	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year
Broad Index							
MSCI ACWI	1.9	5.2	17.3	18.6	7.4	10.2	3.9
MSCI ACWI ex US	1.9	6.2	21.1	19.6	4.7	7.0	1.3
MSCI EAFE	2.5	5.4	20.0	19.1	5.0	8.4	1.3
MSCI EM	(0.4)	7.9	27.8	22.5	4.9	4.0	1.3
MSCI EAFE Small Cap	2.9	7.5	25.4	21.8	11.1	12.8	4.6
Style Index							
MSCI EAFE Growth	1.9	4.9	22.4	15.7	6.5	8.9	2.1
MSCI EAFE Value	3.1	5.9	17.6	22.5	3.5	7.8	0.5
Regional Index							
MSCI UK	3.3	5.2	15.7	14.6	0.8	4.9	0.7
MSCI Japan	2.0	4.0	14.3	14.1	7.7	10.6	1.7
MSCI Euro	3.9	8.0	25.9	28.4	5.6	9.9	(0.0)
MSCI EM Asia	(0.0)	7.0	31.8	23.8	8.0	7.4	2.7
MSCI EM Latin American	1.6	15.1	26.7	25.6	(0.3)	(1.9)	(0.8)

Source: Morningstar, as of 9/30/17

FIXED INCOME

	Month	QTD	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year
Broad Index							
BBgBarc US Treasury US TIPS	(0.6)	0.9	1.7	(0.7)	1.6	0.0	3.9
BBgBarc US Treasury Bills	0.1	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.5
BBgBarc US Agg Bond	(0.5)	0.8	3.1	0.1	2.7	2.1	4.3
Duration							
BBgBarc US Treasury 1-3 Yr	(0.2)	0.2	0.7	0.2	0.8	0.6	1.7
BBgBarc US Treasury Long	(2.2)	0.6	6.0	(6.4)	4.9	2.8	6.9
BBgBarc US Treasury	(0.9)	0.4	2.3	(1.7)	2.0	1.2	3.7
Issuer							
BBgBarc US MBS	(0.2)	1.0	2.3	0.3	2.4	2.0	4.1
BBgBarc US Corp. High Yield	0.9	2.0	7.0	8.9	5.8	6.4	7.8
BBgBarc US Agency Interm	(0.3)	0.3	1.4	0.3	1.5	1.1	2.8
BBgBarc US Credit	(0.2)	1.3	5.1	2.0	3.9	3.2	5.5

OTHER

	Month	QTD	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year
Index							
Bloomberg Commodity	(0.1)	2.5	(2.9)	(0.3)	(10.4)	(10.5)	(6.8)
Wilshire US REIT	(0.1)	0.6	2.4	0.1	9.7	9.5	5.6
CS Leveraged Loans	0.4	1.1	3.0	5.4	4.0	4.4	4.4
Regional Index							
JPM EMBI Global Div	0.0	2.6	9.0	4.6	6.5	4.9	7.5
JPM GBI-EM Global Div	(0.3)	3.6	14.3	7.3	0.3	(0.9)	3.8
Hedge Funds							
HFRI Composite	0.5	2.1	5.7	6.9	3.3	4.7	3.1
HFRI FOF Composite	0.4	2.2	5.5	6.4	2.2	3.8	1.1
Currency (Spot)							
Euro	(0.6)	3.7	12.1	5.2	(2.2)	(1.7)	(1.8)
Pound	4.1	3.3	8.6	3.3	(6.1)	(3.6)	(4.1)
Yen	(2.2)	(0.2)	3.6	(10.0)	(0.9)	(7.1)	0.2

Definitions

Bloomberg US Weekly Consumer Comfort Index - tracks the public's economic attitudes each week, providing a high-frequency read on consumer sentiment. The index, based on cell and landline telephone interviews with a random, representative national sample of U.S. adults, tracks Americans' ratings of the national economy, their personal finances and the buying climate on a weekly basis, with views of the economy's direction measured separately each month. (www.lanqerresearch.com)

University of Michigan Consumer Sentiment Index - A survey of consumer attitudes concerning both the present situation as well as expectations regarding economic conditions conducted by the University of Michigan. For the preliminary release approximately three hundred consumers are surveyed while five hundred are interviewed for the final figure. The level of consumer sentiment is related to the strength of consumer spending. (www.Bloomberg.com)

Citi Economic Surprise Index - objective and quantitative measures of economic news. Defined as weighted historical standard deviations of data surprises (actual releases vs Bloomberg survey median). A positive reading of the Economic Surprise Index suggests that economic releases have on balance been beating consensus. The indices are calculated daily in a rolling three-month window. The weights of economic indicators are derived from relative high-frequency spot FX impacts of 1 standard deviation data surprises. The indices also employ a time decay function to replicate the limited memory of markets. (www.Bloomberg.com)

NFIB Small Business Outlook - Small Business Economic Trends (SBET) is a monthly assessment of the U.S. small-business economy and its near-term prospects. Its data are collected through mail surveys to random samples of the National Federal of Independent Business (NFIB) membership. The survey contains three broad question types: recent performance, near-term forecasts, and demographics. The topics addressed include: outlook, sales, earnings, employment, employee compensation, investment, inventories, credit conditions, and single most important problem. (<http://www.nfib-sbet.org/about/>)

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