



# GLOBAL LOW VOLATILITY EQUITY

## MARKET COMMENTARY

During the first quarter, equity markets were generally weak and volatile. Emerging markets stocks (MSCI Emerging Markets Index<sup>®</sup>) were the only group with positive total returns, they returned 1.47%. Non-U.S. large cap stocks (MSCI EAFE Index<sup>®</sup>) were the worst performing group returning -1.41%. U.S. large cap stocks (S&P 500 Index<sup>®</sup>) returned -0.76% while U.S. small cap stocks (Russell 2000 Index<sup>®</sup>) were nearly flat with total return of -0.08%. Growth stocks, as a style, significantly outperformed value stocks across all market caps.

The U.S. economy is expected to grow 2.8% during the first half of 2018 according to the Federal Reserve Leading Index. We do not see significant signs of a recession in the near term. Even after six rate hikes since December 2015, the futures market implies a 61% probability of more than one 0.25% increase in the Fed Funds rate to occur during 2018.

Consumers are clearly feeling good with generational low unemployment, a new high of \$98.7 trillion in household net worth, and the lowest household debt service ratio, 10.3% in the past 30 years. The Consumer Sentiment Index remained near its highest level in 17 years and the US Leading Index rose +6.4% from a year ago.

Both U.S. and non-U.S. valuations are near their 10-year peaks. Although equity market valuations are clearly stretched, we're still finding attractively valued companies in which to invest. We're grateful to you for entrusting us with your investments.

Performance	March	1Q18	1 Year	3 Years
S&P 500 Total Return	-2.54%	-0.76%	12.95%	9.89%
Russell 2000 Total Return	1.29%	-0.08%	10.96%	8.75%
MSCI EAFE Small-cap (USD)	-1.06%	0.32%	24.19%	11.91%
MSCI Emerging Markets (USD)	-1.83%	1.47%	26.06%	8.44%
MSCI EAFE (USD)	-1.70%	-1.41%	17.05%	5.38%
MSCI ACWI Min Vol	0.11%	-0.59%	11.08%	7.89%
Barclays Aggregate (ETF: AGG)	0.62%	-1.49%	1.01%	1.25%
Barclays High Yield 2% Issuer Cap	-0.60%	-0.86%	3.27%	4.85%
Barclays Global Aggregate ex US	1.43%	3.62%	11.09%	3.78%
Gold (ETF: IAU)	0.44%	2.05%	4.74%	2.60%
Oil (ETF: USO)	5.62%	8.42%	13.11%	-10.26%
USD Trade Weighted (ETF: UUP)	-0.25%	-1.55%	-8.79%	-2.03%

## PERFORMANCE CONTRIBUTORS

The **Information Technology** sector outperformed during the quarter despite very poor performance during the month of March.

The **Momentum** factor was the best performing factor during the quarter despite very poor performance during the month of March.

Interest rate sensitive sectors, **Utilities and Real Estate**, underperformed during the quarter but provided protection when volatility spiked in both February and March.

**Adobe Systems (ADBE)** appreciated 23.09% as Q1 EPS & revenue beat estimates driven by higher subscriptions for its flagship Creative Cloud suite of software and rising ARPU's.

**Estee Lauder (EL)** appreciated 17.06% as it raised its full year constant-currency sales growth forecast, driven by healthy momentum in e-commerce and travel retail segments.

**ResMed (RMD)** appreciated 14.15% as Q2 EPS & revenue beat estimates and the management guided for a significantly lower effective tax rate in 2018.

## PERFORMANCE DETRACTORS

The **Consumer Staples** sector underperformed during the quarter but provided protection when volatility spiked in March.

**Value stocks** significantly underperformed during the quarter by failing to participate in the January rally and subsequently underperforming in March.

Economically sensitive sectors, such as **Energy**, underperformed throughout the quarter by failing to participate in the January rally and subsequently underperforming in March.

**Telekomunik Indonesia (TLK)** declined 17.51% as Q4 revenue and EPS missed estimates, driven by intensifying competition and current subscribers shifting from voice to lower margin data.

**TransCanada Corp. (TRP)** declined 14.91% as the route change for the proposed Keystone XL pipeline through Nebraska is expected to add \$100-200 million in additional costs.

**Procter & Gamble (PG)** declined 13.89% as its Q2 earnings and management commentary reflected continued pressure from online and discount retailers.

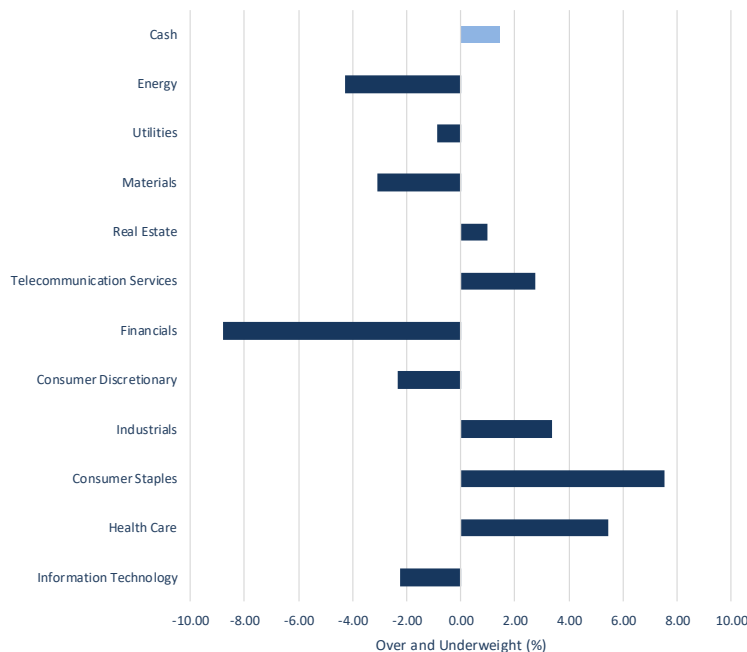


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## MARKET OUTLOOK

U.S. economic growth will remain modest as the probability of a recession remains low. The Federal Reserve will likely increase the Fed Funds rate by 0.25% increments at least twice during 2018. Globally, central bank balance sheets will start to decline in aggregate as debt matures, creating a headwind for stocks. Market valuations will remain elevated according to numerous valuation metrics. Unemployment rates will remain at generational lows. After over nine years of an equity bull market, we believe it is time for investors to be proactively prudent by lowering equity market risk using our risk managed approach.

Relative Sector Weights to the MSCI ACWI



### Top 5 U.S Holdings

Company	Weight
Adobe Systems Inc	2.29%
Estee Lauder Companies	2.21%
TJX Companies Inc	2.15%
ResMed Inc	2.15%
Union Pacific Corp	2.14%

### Top 5 Non-U.S Holdings

Company	Weight
Smith & Nephew	2.18%
Nutrien Ltd	2.07%
Unilever N V	2.06%
Tencent Holdings Ltd	2.05%
Alibaba Group Holding	2.03%

Characteristics	Portfolio	MSCI ACWI***
Number of Securities	49	1380
Market Capitalization (\$b)**	62.95	56.15
Beta*	0.62	1.00
Standard Deviation*	8.37%	10.90%
LT Debt to Capital**	12.3%	20.8%
Dividend Yield**	2.2%	2.4%
Price to Earnings**	21.68	19.82
Price to Cash Flow**	16.99	14.18
Price to Book**	4.53	2.76
Return on Equity**	19.6%	14.3%

\*36 Month \*\*Weighted Median \*\*\*Proxied via ACWI; iShares MSCI ACWI ETF

We believe investing in a low volatility equity portfolio provides more consistent returns with smaller drawdowns along with increased diversification benefits. Prudent disciplined investing is exactly what Summit Global Investments practices. We are honored that you have entrusted us with your investments.

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