



COPPERWYND  
FINANCIAL

FEBRUARY 2018

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*“For the first time since the Great Recession, every one of the world’s major economies is growing.”*

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**Market Commentary**

Christmas is gone, the New Year rung in and Valentine’s Day is fast approaching. The stock market has been showing a lot of love since the first of the year, with January marking the 14th straight month of gains on the S&P.

Before we talk about what could go wrong, let’s look at all that is going right! For the first time since the Great Recession, every one of the world’s major economies is growing and this is a major source of the current optimism. As we have discussed before, the growth of the economies over the past decade has been anything but equitable with a growing distance between the haves and the have-nots. Perhaps we are finally at the point where a tight labor market and the estimated \$1.5 Trillion in tax cuts will begin to lift up those left behind and that would be a very good reason for optimism.

Earnings season kicked off mid-month with high expectations given the strong retail sales activity over the holidays and most companies have been delivering, providing more lift to the market through the end of January. Half-way through earnings season, a whopping 81% of companies have beat their earnings estimate with 8 of 11 major sectors reporting double-digit growth ... and those tax cuts that passed right at the end of the year haven’t even started to have an impact!

On the employment front, we added 200,000 new jobs to the economy last month and unemployment rate continues at 4.1%. The brightest news here is the jump in wages by 2.9%, the biggest increase since 2009. Should the tight labor market continue, this could start the long awaited sustained pickup in wages that will boost demand in this expansion ... and again, tax cuts could provide addition support to consumer spending. (A word of caution that what is good for employees is not always good for corporate bottom lines, but more importantly, rising wages and inflation could prompt the Federal Reserve to push interest rates higher – and markets will struggle in a rising interest rate environment) Put everyone to work and pay them more money and you find yourself with global expansion and a market buoyed by optimism.



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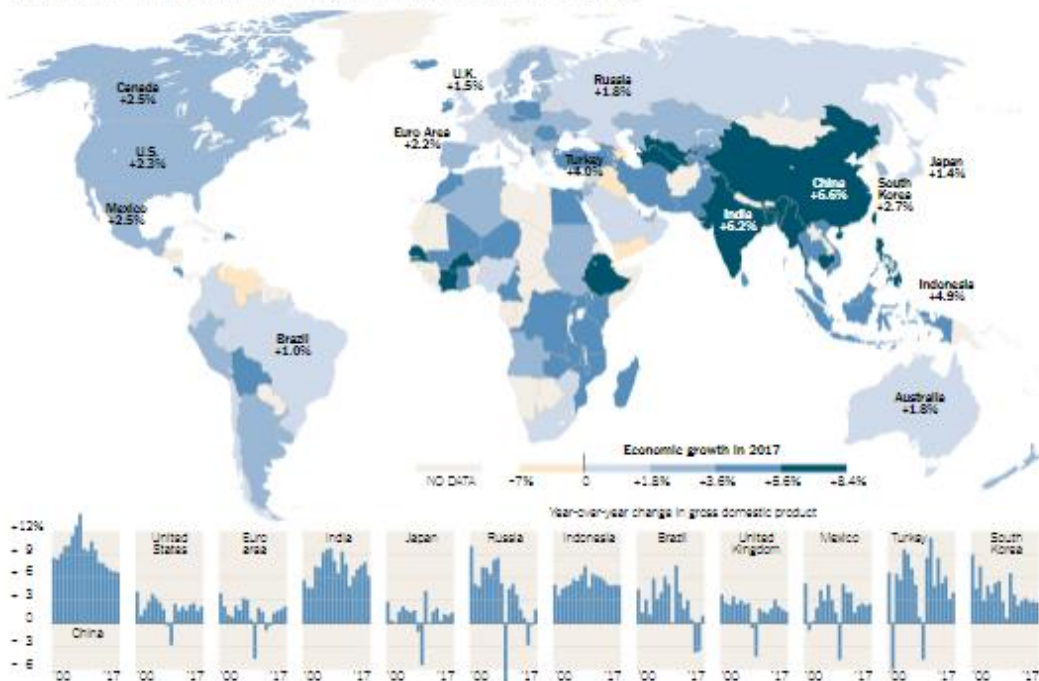
Jake Eggett

Unfortunately, markets can't climb higher indefinitely and something will come along to spoil the party. Over the course of the next several commentaries, we're going to look at some of those potential factors in a little more detail and discuss how they might impact this very rosy picture. In the meantime, we continue our work on developing new models that will help us try to protect these gains we have enjoyed and you will find us talking to you more about our current Rotation strategies as a good answer to today's markets.

Here in Arizona, we are enjoying the booming economy brought about by the Barrett Jackson car show and now the Phoenix Open ... can spring training be far behind? Why as a matter of fact, it will be here faster than you know – and NOW is the time to get your reservations in for the games! Please see the end of this newsletter for dates and times and get your requests in! We're guaranteeing warm weather ...

### Growth Across the Globe

For the first time since the financial crisis a decade ago, all of the world's major economies are growing.



Some figures are estimates  
Source: The Conference Board; Bureau of Labor Statistics | By Karl Russell

### Special Bulletin!!

Copperwynd Financial continues to invest in our business with people, process and now new technology. We will be rolling out a new “21st Century” portal for you to access all your consolidated account information with a mobile option for you power cell users! Watch your email and this space for additional information on when we will be ready to launch the new site -





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**Market Metrics**

	Jan 31	Dec 31	1 Year Ago
Dow Jones Ind. Avg.	26,149	24,719	19,864
S&P 500	2,824	2,674	2,279
Nasdaq	7,411	6,950	5,615
The Russell 2000	1,575	1,535	1,362
Developed International Markets	73.84	70.5	59.63
MSCI Emerging Markets	510	478	373
Bond Index	108.10	109.26	108.29
10-Year Treasury Rate	2.72%	2.43%	2.48%
Gold (\$/oz75)	\$1,345	\$1,305	\$1,214

**Financial Planning Tip of the Month**

The IRS announced updated retirement plan contribution limits for 2018, and there are several significant changes taking place. Here's a condensed list showing the new contribution limits for 401(k) plans, IRA investors, and Americans who use other varieties of tax-advantaged retirement savings plans.

Contribution Limits		
	2017	2018
IRA's and Roth's	\$5,500	\$5,500
Catch Up (50+)	\$6,500	\$6,500
401k's, 403b's, 457	\$18,000	\$18,500
Catch Up (50+)	\$24,000	\$24,500
Simple	\$12,500	\$12,500
Defined Benefit Plan	\$215,000	\$220,000

While 401(k) contributions are generally due by the end of the calendar year, you have until April 17, 2018 to make an IRA contribution that will qualify you for a tax deduction on your 2017 return. Call us today if you would like make an IRA contribution for either 2017 or 2018!



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**College Planning Tip of the Month**

One of the many benefits of saving for a child's future college education with a 529 plan is that contributions are considered gifts for tax purposes. In 2018, gifts totaling up to \$15,000 per individual will qualify for the annual exclusion. This means if you and your spouse have three grandchildren you can gift \$90,000 without gift-tax consequences, since each child can receive \$15,000 in gifts from you and \$15,000 in gifts from your spouse. Remember, this also includes non-529 gifts so be sure to include any cash or property gifts in your total. Also with the new tax reform, a new feature to 529 plans has become available for parents and grandparents. Every year, up to \$10,000 can be used to pay for tuition for children in k-12 school. Give us a call if you want to review your 529 contributions or would like to discuss funding a new 529 plan!

**Your 401k Allocation**

The continued weakness thus far this year in the dollar has given support to international markets, and the strength of oil prices in particular has buoyed emerging markets. Our 401K allocations are rotating now out of small cap and back into the international markets as a result. As always, please call us if you have any difficulty executing your reallocation!

February 2018					
		Agg. Growth	Growth	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Bonds / Cash</b>		0%	15%	35%	65%
	Stable Asset - OR - Short Term Bond	0%	15%	35%	35%
	Total Return	0%	0%	0%	30%
	World Bond	0%	0%	0%	0%
	Inflation Protected Bond	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Large Cap:</b>		50%	45%	36%	20%
	Large Cap Growth	38%	32%	25%	16%
	Large Cap Value	12%	13%	11%	4%
<b>Mid Cap:</b>		30%	25%	18%	10%
	Mid Cap Growth	15%	15%	10%	5%
	Mid Cap Value	15%	10%	8%	5%
<b>Small Cap:</b>		5%	0%	0%	0%
	Small Cap Growth	5%	0%	0%	0%
	Small Cap Value	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>International:</b>		15%	15%	11%	5%
	Developed International	5%	5%	0%	0%
	Emerging Markets	10%	10%	11%	5%



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**New and Noteworthy**

- **February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018, 12:00pm: Women's Lunch and Learn – Investment Management 101–Gardner Village, West Jordan, Utah**

We invite you to join us for a continuation of our Women And Finances series as we introduce you to Investment Management 101. Please join us for lunch and feel free to invite a guest. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Amy Diamond by email at [adiamond@copperwyndfinancial.com](mailto:adiamond@copperwyndfinancial.com) or by calling us at the office, and we look forward to seeing you there!

- **We will be hosting two Spring Training games this year:**
  - Wednesday, February 28th, 2018 at 1:10 pm. Salt River Fields at Talking Stick – Colorado Rockies and Arizona Diamondbacks
  - Monday, March 5th, 2018 at 1:10 pm. Salt River Fields at Talking Stick - Chicago Cubs and Colorado Rockies

Space is limited, so if you would like to join us, please email [kcstlow@copperwyndfinancial.com](mailto:kcstlow@copperwyndfinancial.com) or give us a call at the office 480-348-2100 and we will happily add you to the ticket reservation list. Just let us know which game you would like to attend! In order to allow as many clients and guests to attend, please limit your initial request to two per family.

