

2017 Q1



A Look Back

With just the first quarter of the year behind us, quite a bit has been shifting in this world of ours. While our collective path has looked rockier than usual from time to time, we have still enjoyed blue skies and sunny open fields. Here are some of the remarkable moments:

- U.K. Prime Minister Theresa May signed Article 50, officially starting the two-year clock ticking on a U.K. Brexit by March 29, 2019.

- The U.S. inaugurated President Trump in January, and the Federal Reserve raised its overnight lending rate by a quarter-point in mid-March. Chairman Janet Yellen commented, "The simple message is the economy is doing well."

- Canada's big banks were called to task by a CBC News exposé of an industry rife with high-pressure sales techniques. The Financial Consumer Agency of Canada will be investigating the accusations in April, and there have been additional calls for a parliamentary inquiry.



- While U.S. stocks have been popular in recent years, emerging markets are fast becoming the newest market-timing darlings. At quarter-end, WSJ columnist Jason Zweig noted, "Emerging markets are up 12% this year, double the return of the S&P 500 index of U.S. stocks, counting dividends." He also noted, "one-twelfth of all the money of these [emerging market ETF] funds has come in over the past 90 days." That's a whole lot of past-performance chasing going on!

In this context, as he's been doing for more than 50 years, Warren Buffett published his annual Berkshire Hathaway shareholder letter. To put this quarter's moves in proper perspective, we wrote a piece highlighting our hot takes, but here are two of our favorite bits of Buffett's usual wit from this year's letter:

Chasing trends: "This year the magic potion may be hedge funds, next year something else. The likely result from this parade of promises is predicted in an adage: 'When a

person with money meets a person with experience, the one with experience ends up with the money and the one with money leaves with experience.'"

Following forecasts: "If 1,000 managers make a market prediction at the beginning of a year, it's very likely that the calls of at least one will be correct for nine consecutive years. Of course, 1,000 monkeys would be just as likely to produce a seemingly all-wise prophet. But there would remain a difference: The lucky monkey would not find people standing in line to invest with him."

We've said it before. One of the few predictions we'll make is that we're almost certain to say it again: Unless your own life's personal circumstances have changed, stay the course as planned. We understood when we created your map and set your plan in place that the world would remain as unpredictable as ever. If the rocky terrain is getting to you and you want help from your guides, we're here to help.

In the meantime, markets marched onward:

- The Dow Jones Industrial Average broke 20,000 to considerable fanfare on January 25. It broke 21,000 on March 1.

- In seeming disconnect, The Wall Street Journal (WSJ) also reported the Dow's "quietest quarter" in 51 years. As BPS and Pieces blogger Phil Huber points out: "Milestones and large, round numbers are two things that human beings are predisposed to get really excited about." But the Dow's average daily movement during the first quarter was actually a scant 0.3185% – its lowest quarterly swing since 1965. Basically, the bigger the numbers become, the less the raw point swings really matter.

Quarterly Market Review

Market Summary

Index Returns



	US Stock Market	International Developed Stocks	Emerging Markets Stocks	Global Real Estate		US Bond Market	Global Bond Market ex US
1Q 2017	STOCKS					BONDS	
	5.74%	6.81%	11.44%	1.44%		0.82%	-0.35%
Since Jan. 2001							
Avg. Quarterly Return	1.9%	1.4%	3.0%	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

[See More Detail](#)

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), US Bond Market (Bloomberg Barclays US Aggregate Bond Index), and Global Bond ex US Market (Citigroup 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 2016, all rights reserved. Bloomberg Barclays data provided by Bloomberg. Citigroup bond indices © 2016 by Citigroup.

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Client Profile: Expanding Your Borders

Randall & Deb

Atlas clients Randall & Deb spent their working lives focused on securing their business, family and future. When retirement arrived they already knew that they would want guides to help them navigate the right path, they just didn't know how far from home those paths would lead.



**Let's start at the beginning of your wealth journey.
How did it all begin?**

Randall: I started my career working as a life insurance salesman early in life while Deb was working as an executive assistant. From there I got into welding and found a pipe fitter apprenticeship out of Houston, Texas. I spent four years and ten months as a pipe fitter, learned isomeric drawings and how to weld different alloys and metals. Eventually, I subcontracted to several companies as an underwater welder, but after about two and a half years I graduated to a safer job. Two and a half years is a long time underwater.

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Giving Back

Carry the Load

You are invited to join Atlas Wealth Advisors as we participate in Carry the Load's Memorial Day March in Dallas.

The March is the symbol of how Carry The Load started, represents carrying the fallen heroes we honor, and we welcome you to join.

The March Begins

Sunday, May 28

12:00 pm

Reverchon Park
3505 Maple Ave,
Dallas, TX 75219

[March With Us](#)

Food for the Poor Update



We Surpassed our Fundraising Goal

THANK YOU!

Your donations are transforming lives in Honduras. We are so grateful for all of you who gave to Food for the Poor toward this goal.

