

Steven F. Mosshart AIF®, Chief Investment Strategist

Sonny Mehra, Director of Research

Market Returns

Domestic Large S&P 500
9.34%

Domestic Small Russell 2000
4.99%

Intl Developed MSCI EAFE
13.81%

Emerging Markets MSCI EM
18.43%

Fixed Income BbgBarc US Aggregate Bond
2.27%

**Market data is from Morningstar and is through 06/30/17. All returns are with dividends reinvested*

Improving economic conditions and higher earnings helped drive global equity markets higher through the second quarter. First quarter earnings growth for the S&P 500 came in at 14%, and expectations are that second quarter growth will be in the high single digits, enough to justify current valuations. Globally we've seen a pickup in economic activity, as seen in manufacturing data in the table below. Conditions have improved from generally stable (yellowish color) to more robust (brighter green), with little red (slowing activity) currently showing up. European data has exceeded expectations, providing a boost to the global economy and stock markets.

Global Purchasing Managers' Index for manufacturing

	Jul'15	Aug'15	Sep'15	Oct'15	Nov'15	Dec'15	Jan'16	Feb'16	Mar'16	Apr'16	May'16	Jun'16	Jul'16	Aug'16	Sep'16	Oct'16	Nov'16	Dec'16	Jan'17	Feb'17	Mar'17	Apr'17	May'17	Jun'17
Global	50.8	50.5	50.4	51.0	51.0	50.7	50.9	50.0	50.6	50.2	50.1	50.4	51.0	50.8	51.1	52.0	52.1	52.7	52.8	53.0	53.0	52.7	52.6	52.6
Developed Markets	52.5	52.4	52.1	53.0	52.6	52.0	52.3	50.9	50.9	50.4	50.2	50.9	51.5	51.3	51.6	52.9	53.2	54.0	54.4	54.4	53.9	54.1	54.6	-
Emerging Markets	48.8	48.3	48.3	48.9	49.1	49.2	49.2	48.8	50.0	49.5	49.5	49.3	50.1	49.9	50.0	50.7	50.7	51.3	50.8	51.2	51.4	50.8	50.6	-
U.S.	53.8	53.0	53.1	54.1	52.8	51.2	52.4	51.3	51.5	50.8	50.7	51.3	52.9	52.0	51.5	53.4	54.1	54.3	55.0	54.2	53.3	52.8	52.7	52.0
Canada	50.8	49.4	48.6	48.0	48.6	47.5	49.3	49.4	51.5	52.2	52.1	51.8	51.9	51.1	50.3	51.1	51.5	51.8	53.5	54.7	55.5	55.9	55.1	-
UK	52.3	51.8	51.5	54.5	52.5	51.2	52.5	50.9	51.1	49.5	50.4	53.1	48.3	53.5	55.3	54.2	53.5	55.9	55.6	54.6	54.0	57.0	56.3	54.3
Euro Area	52.4	52.3	52.0	52.3	52.8	53.2	52.3	51.2	51.6	51.7	51.5	52.8	52.0	51.7	52.6	53.5	53.7	54.9	55.2	55.4	56.2	56.7	57.0	57.4
Germany	51.8	53.3	52.3	52.1	52.9	53.2	52.3	50.5	50.7	51.8	52.1	54.5	53.8	53.6	54.3	55.0	54.3	55.6	56.4	56.8	58.3	58.2	59.5	59.6
France	49.6	48.3	50.6	50.6	50.6	51.4	50.0	50.2	49.6	48.0	48.4	48.3	48.6	48.3	49.7	51.8	51.7	53.5	53.6	52.2	53.3	55.1	53.8	54.8
Italy	55.3	53.8	52.7	54.1	54.9	55.6	53.2	52.2	53.5	53.9	52.4	53.5	51.2	49.8	51.0	50.9	52.2	53.2	53.0	55.0	55.7	56.2	55.1	55.2
Spain	53.6	53.2	51.7	51.3	53.1	53.0	55.4	54.1	53.4	53.5	51.8	52.2	51.0	51.0	52.3	53.3	54.5	55.3	55.6	54.8	53.9	54.5	55.4	54.7
Greece	30.2	39.1	43.3	47.3	48.1	50.2	50.0	48.4	49.0	49.7	48.4	50.4	48.7	50.4	49.2	48.6	48.3	49.3	46.6	47.7	46.7	48.2	49.6	50.5
Ireland	56.7	53.6	53.8	53.6	53.3	54.2	54.3	52.9	54.9	52.6	51.5	53.0	50.2	51.7	51.3	52.1	53.7	55.7	55.5	53.8	53.6	55.0	55.9	56.0
Australia	50.4	51.7	52.1	50.2	52.5	51.9	51.5	53.5	58.1	53.4	51.0	51.8	56.4	46.9	49.8	50.9	54.2	55.4	51.2	59.3	57.5	59.2	54.8	55.0
Japan	51.2	51.7	51.0	52.4	52.6	52.6	52.3	50.1	49.1	48.2	47.7	48.1	49.3	49.5	50.4	51.4	51.3	52.4	52.7	53.3	52.4	52.7	53.1	52.4
China	47.8	47.3	47.2	48.3	48.6	48.2	48.4	48.0	49.7	49.4	49.2	48.6	50.6	50.0	50.1	51.2	50.9	51.9	51.0	51.7	51.2	50.3	49.6	50.4
Indonesia	47.3	48.4	47.4	47.8	46.9	47.8	48.9	48.7	50.6	50.9	50.6	51.9	48.4	50.4	50.9	48.7	49.7	49.0	50.4	49.3	50.5	51.2	50.6	49.5
Korea	47.6	47.9	49.2	49.1	49.1	50.7	49.5	48.7	49.5	50.0	50.1	50.5	50.1	48.6	47.6	48.0	48.0	49.4	49.0	49.2	48.4	49.4	49.2	50.1
Taiwan	47.1	46.1	46.9	47.8	49.5	51.7	50.6	49.4	51.1	49.7	48.5	50.5	51.0	51.8	52.2	52.7	54.7	56.2	55.6	54.5	56.2	54.4	53.1	53.3
India	52.7	52.3	51.2	50.7	50.3	49.1	51.1	51.1	52.4	50.5	50.7	51.7	51.8	52.6	52.1	54.4	52.3	49.6	50.4	50.7	52.5	52.5	51.6	50.9
Brazil	47.2	45.8	47.0	44.1	43.8	45.6	47.4	44.5	46.0	42.6	41.6	43.2	46.0	45.7	46.0	46.3	46.2	45.2	44.0	46.9	49.6	50.1	52.0	50.5
Mexico	52.9	52.4	52.1	53.0	53.0	52.4	52.2	53.1	53.2	52.4	53.6	51.1	50.6	50.9	51.9	51.8	51.1	50.2	50.8	50.6	51.5	50.7	51.2	52.3
Russia	48.3	47.9	49.1	50.2	50.1	48.7	49.8	49.3	48.3	48.0	49.6	51.5	49.5	50.8	51.1	52.4	53.6	53.7	54.7	52.5	52.4	50.8	52.4	50.3

Source: Markit, J.P. Morgan Asset Management. Heatmap colors are based on PMI relative to the 50 level, which indicates acceleration or deceleration of the sector, for the time period shown. Guide to the Markets – U.S. Data are as of June 30, 2017.

As we mentioned in last quarter's StraightTalk, enthusiasm for stimulative US fiscal policies continues to wane. Prospects for enacting tax reform legislation in 2017 became more remote. The administration, however, succeeded in deregulating certain aspects of the financial industry. These changes will likely be positive for the sector. The economy's resilience provides the Federal Reserve Board with the opportunity to reduce its balance sheet and proceed with raising short-term interest rates. Likewise, the European Central Bank appears to be on a less stimulative path.

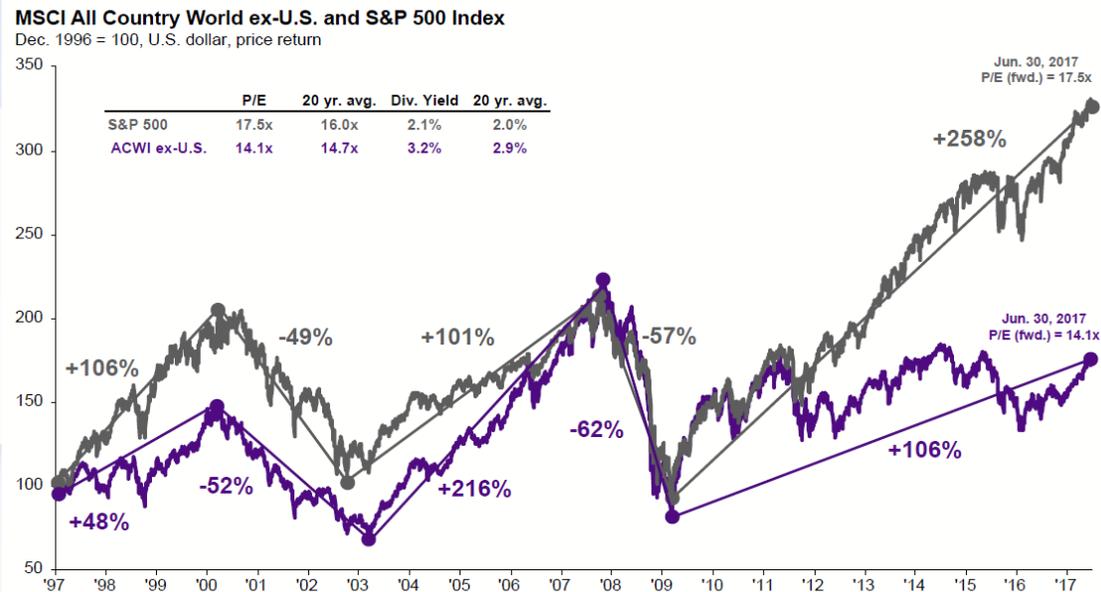


STRAIGHT TALK

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We believe the changes in global central bank policies will lead to less investor complacency and the potential for increased volatility. As a result, we will remain particularly diligent to the potential impact these changes may have on all our investment allocations. For some time, we have reduced our exposures to interest rate sensitive investments that could be negatively impacted by higher interest rates. One of the reasons for potentially higher international interest rates reflects the more positive global economic outlook. Those who regularly read our commentary know our bullish outlook regarding international markets. During the first half of the year, international developed equity markets returned over 13% and EM equity markets over 18%. This compares favorably to the first half performance of the broader US markets. There remains significant room to run in international markets. The chart below highlights the performance gap over recent years. We believe the trend over the last six months will continue and this gap will eventually narrow.



Source: MSCI, Standard & Poor's, FactSet, J.P. Morgan Asset Management.
Forward price to earnings ratio is a bottom-up calculation based on the most recent index price, divided by consensus estimates for earnings in the next twelve months (NTM), and is provided by FactSet Market Aggregates. Returns are cumulative and based on price movement only, and do not include the reinvestment of dividends. Past performance is not indicative of future returns. Dividend yield is calculated as consensus estimates of dividends for the next twelve months, divided by most recent price, as provided by FactSet Market Aggregates.
Guide to the Markets – U.S. Data are as of June 30, 2017.

Stocks and bonds generally fared well in the first half of the year, and while we maintain a positive view towards markets, we must be conscious of the potential risks. Central banks will likely remain cautious, even as they become less stimulative, but the potential for a repricing in bond markets exists. Across equity markets we believe that stocks will continue to trend higher, but US markets are looking fairly valued and any further delays in implementing fiscal policy could negatively impact investor sentiment. The rebalancing we did earlier in the year allowed us to lock in some gains, and we will take time over the summer months to evaluate positioning and make any necessary