

## 4<sup>TH</sup> QUARTER 2018 - ADVISORY COMMENTARY

THE 4<sup>TH</sup> QUARTER OF 2018 SAW A DRAMATIC DROP IN THE WORLD'S STOCK MARKETS. IN PARTICULAR, THE U.S. EQUITY MARKETS HAVE FINALLY FALLEN DOWN TO CATCH UP WITH THE PREVIOUSLY SEEN DECLINES IN INTERNATIONAL MARKETS. WHILE THE U.S. IS STILL GENERALLY VIEWED AS THE "CLEANEST DIRTY SHIRT IN THE BUNCH", IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN IF THE U.S. CAN STAY RELATIVELY INSULATED FROM THE TURMOIL BEING FELT BY THE ONGOING TRADE DISPUTES, WORLDWIDE DOLLAR FUNDING SHORTAGE AND RAPIDLY DECLINING SENTIMENT AND ECONOMIC INDICATORS BEING SEEN OUTSIDE THE U.S.

AS THE WORLD'S STOCK MARKETS FELL, INVESTORS POURED MONEY INTO BOND FUNDS. THIS CAUSED INTEREST RATES TO FALL BACK QUITE A BIT FROM THE ELEVATED LEVELS SEEN AT THE END OF THE THIRD QUARTER. TIME WILL TELL IF THIS REMAINS A TREND, AS HIGHER INTEREST RATES ACROSS THE BOARD WERE CAUSING A LARGE AMOUNT OF WORRY ACROSS THE INVESTMENT SPECTRUM, GIVEN THE EXTREMELY HIGH LEVELS OF INDEBTEDNESS SEEN ACROSS THE GLOBE.

WE FEEL THAT THE MOST CONCERNING ISSUE AT THE MOMENT IS THE DATA COMING OUT OF CHINA. IT CONTINUES TO SHOW A RAPID DECELERATION OF GROWTH IN THAT ECONOMY, AS WELL AS IN THE SURROUNDING ASIAN COUNTRIES. MOST INDICATORS ARE SHOWING GROWTH RATES THAT HAVE DROPPED TO MULTI-YEAR, IF NOT MULTI-DECADE LOW LEVELS. IT STILL REMAINS TO BE SEEN IF CHINA WILL CHOOSE TO MEET THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S DEMANDS OF CURTAILING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY THEFT AND REDUCING OR ELIMINATING THEIR UNEVEN TARIFFS ON IMPORTED GOODS AND DRACONIAN FOREIGN BUSINESS-OWNERSHIP RULES.

GLOBAL SEMICONDUCTOR SHIPMENTS HAVE BEEN THE PROVERBIAL "CANARY IN THE COAL MINE" FOR THE WORLD'S MANUFACTURING BASE, AS WEAKNESS IN PRODUCT SALES FROM TAIWAN AND SOUTH KOREA HAVE PRACTICALLY FALLEN OFF A CLIFF. THIS INDUSTRY'S TROUBLES MAY SEEM LIKE JUST ONE SMALL AREA OF DIFFICULTY, BUT IN TODAY'S ECONOMY, WEAKNESS IN SEMICONDUCTOR ORDERS AFFECT NEARLY ALL AREAS OF MANUFACTURING. IN PARTICULAR, SIGNIFICANT WEAKNESS IS BEING SEEN TO FLOW THROUGH TO AUTOMOBILES, MOBILE PHONES & ELECTRONICS FIRMS OF ALL KINDS.

WE CONTINUE TO BE CAUTIOUS IN OUR ALLOCATIONS AS THE WEAKENING GLOBAL ECONOMIC CLIMATE CONTINUES AND FORWARD EARNINGS ESTIMATES CONTINUE TO MOVE DOWNWARD AT A BRISK PACE.

SINCERELY,



BRIAN WECKMAN, RFC  
CHIEF INVESTMENT OFFICER  
ACTIS WEALTH MANAGEMENT L.C.



## 4<sup>TH</sup> QUARTER 2018 - MARKET UPDATE

### EQUITY MARKETS

- S&P 500 INDEX TR **-13.52%**
- DOW JONES INDUSTRIAL AVERAGE TR **-11.31%**
- NASDAQ COMPOSITE INDEX **-17.54%**
- RUSSELL 3000 INDEX TR **-14.30%**
- CBOE SPX MARKET VOLATILITY INDEX **+109.74%**

### FIXED INCOME MARKETS

- BARCLAYS U.S. AGGREGATE BOND INDEX **+1.64%**
- BARCLAYS U.S. TREASURY 5-7 YEAR INDEX **+3.17%**

### ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENTS, COMMODITIES & CURRENCIES

- S&P GSCI TOTAL RETURN INDEX **-22.94%**
- GSCI WEST TEXAS INTERMEDIATE EXCESS RETURN **-38.31%**
- U.S. DOLLAR INDEX **+1.03%**
- GOLD SPOT **+7.73%**
- DOW JONES COMPOSITE REIT INDEX TR **-6.00%**
- CBOE BUYWRITE MONTHLY INDEX **-10.81%**

### ANCHORED GROWTH BENCHMARK **-9.57%**

(70% RUSSELL 3000, 25% BARCLAYS U.S. AGGREGATE BOND INDEX, 5% CASH)

### FOUNDATION TOTAL RETURN BENCHMARK **-6.44%**

(50% RUSSELL 3000, 40% BARCLAYS U.S. AGGREGATE BOND INDEX, 10% CASH)

### INFLATION-PLUS INCOME BENCHMARK **+1.30%**

(40% BARCLAYS U.S. AGGREGATE BOND INDEX, 40% BARCLAYS U.S. TREASURY SHORT INDEX, 20% CASH)

\*SOURCE: KWANTL.COM (1/12/19). INDEXES ARE UNMANAGED AND CANNOT BE INVESTED INTO DIRECTLY. UNMANAGED INDEX RETURNS DO NOT REFLECT FEES, EXPENSES, OR SALES CHARGES. INDEX PERFORMANCE IS NOT INDICATIVE OF THE PERFORMANCE OF ANY INVESTMENT. PAST PERFORMANCE IS NO GUARANTEE OF FUTURE RESULTS.



THE OPINIONS VOICED IN THIS MATERIAL ARE FOR GENERAL INFORMATION ONLY AND ARE NOT INTENDED TO PROVIDE SPECIFIC ADVICE OR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ANY INDIVIDUAL.

THE ECONOMIC FORECASTS MAY NOT DEVELOP AS PREDICTED AND THERE CAN BE NO GUARANTEE THAT STRATEGIES PROMOTED WILL BE SUCCESSFUL.

PRECIOUS METAL INVESTING INVOLVES GREATER FLUCTUATION AND POTENTIAL FOR LOSSES.

THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT A DIVERSIFIED PORTFOLIO WILL ENHANCE OVERALL RETURNS OR OUTPERFORM A NON-DIVERSIFIED PORTFOLIO. DIVERSIFICATION DOES NOT PROTECT AGAINST MARKET RISK.

The Standard & Poor's 500 Index is a capitalization-weighted index of 500 stocks designed to measure performance of the broad domestic economy through changes in the aggregate market value of 500 stocks representing all major industries.

Dow Jones Industrial Average is the most widely used indicator of the overall condition of the stock market, a price-weighted average of 30 actively traded blue chip stocks, primarily industrials. The 30 stocks are chosen by the editors of the Wall Street Journal. The Dow is computed using a price-weighted indexing system, rather than the more common market cap-weighted indexing system.

The NASDAQ Global Market Composite consists of 1,450 stocks that meet NASDAQ's strict financial and liquidity requirements, and corporate governance standards. The Global Market Composite is less exclusive than the Global Select Market Composite.

The Russell 3000 Index is a market capitalization weighted equity index maintained by the Russell Investment Group that seeks to be a benchmark of the entire U.S. stock market. More specifically, this index encompasses the 3,000 largest U.S.-traded stocks, in which the underlying companies are all incorporated in the U.S.

The CBOE SPX Market Volatility Index shows the market's expectation of 30-day volatility. It is constructed using the implied volatilities of a wide range of S&P 500 index options. This volatility is meant to be forward looking and is calculated from both calls and puts. The VIX is a widely used measure of market risk and is often referred to as the "investor fear gauge."

The Barclays US Aggregate Bond Index is a broad-based flagship benchmark that measures the investment grade, US dollar-denominated, fixed-rate taxable bond market. The index includes Treasuries, government-related and corporate securities, MBS (agency fixed-rate and hybrid ARM pass-throughs), ABS and CMBS (agency and non-agency).

The Barclays US Treasury Bond Index measures the performance of U.S. Treasury securities that have a remaining maturity of at least seven years and less than 10 years.

The S&P GSCI is recognized as a leading measure of general price movements and inflation in the world economy. The index – representing market beta – is world-production weighted. It is designed to be investable by including the most liquid commodity futures, and provides diversification with low correlations to other asset classes.

The GSCI West Texas Intermediate Excess Return Index reflects the returns that are potentially available through an unleveraged investment in the West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude oil futures contract plus the Treasury Bill rate of interest that could be earned on funds committed to the trading of the underlying contracts.

The U.S. Dollar Index is a measure of the value of the U.S. dollar relative to majority of its most significant trading partners. This index is similar to other trade-weighted indexes, which also use the exchange rates from the same major currencies.

Gold Spot refers to the price paid for current delivery of 1 ounce of physical gold.

The Dow Jones Composite REIT Index contains all publicly traded U.S. REITs in the S&P Dow Jones Indices U.S. stock universe that are classified into one of three subcategories—equity, mortgage or hybrid—as defined by the REIT/RESI Industry Classification Hierarchy.

The CBOE S&P 500 BuyWrite Index (BXM) is a benchmark index designed to track the performance of a hypothetical buy-write strategy on the S&P 500 Index.



SECURITIES AND ADVISORY SERVICES OFFERED THROUGH LPL FINANCIAL, A REGISTERED INVESTMENT ADVISER, MEMBER FINRA/SIPC.