PERSPECTIVES

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Spring 2017

Dear Clients, Advisors and Friends,

We have survived another tax season and are looking forward to the arrival of spring and warmer days. In this edition of our newsletter, we review the strong first quarter, provide thoughts on Roth contributions for young adults, and offer insights as we enter the season for occasions like graduations and college acceptances.

Wishing you all an enjoyable spring season,

Deirdre, Rob, Jennifer, Kelley, Sherm, Toni, Courtney and Suellen

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EBBS & FLOWS

Ebbs & Flows of Sandy Cove

We have had a busy First Quarter and are thrilled to be in our new office at 37 Derby Street in Hingham. Read more about what we are up to, and what's to come at Sandy Cove Advisors.

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From the Desk of the CIO

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If a child has earned income from a summer job or other work, a full or partial Roth contribution may be an option.

Learn More about these Opportunities

LIFESTYLE

Those Who Host Lose the Most

Many of us will be hosting parties and events for graduation and prom this season, but as a host it's important to remember what can be at stake, and how to protect yourselves, your property and our youth.

Learn More about the Social Host Law

FAMILY

A Heartwarming Note to Survive the College Admissions Madness

We recently read an article dissecting the college admissions game, while offering a sincere letter to encourage our students during the emotional college acceptance season.

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EBBS & FLOWS

Dear Clients, Advisors and Friends:

We have survived another tax season and are looking forward to the arrival of spring and warmer days. We have had a busy First Quarter and are thrilled to be in our new office at 37 Derby Street in Hingham. We continue to grow our client base and this new location provides our clients with much easier access from the highway. We've already had a host of visitors and would love for you to stop by if you are in the neighborhood.

We are always striving to improve our website and are proud to announce the launch of the Sandy Cove Advisors Blog. Please visit the "Insights" tab to have a look at our recent posts. As always, if you have a blog or newsletter topic you'd like to learn more about, please let us know and we'll do the research!

What are we up to…

In the spirit of celebrating health and wealth, Sandy Cove Advisors has sponsored 2 teams and is looking forward to participating in the Cohasset Triathlon at Sandy Beach on Sunday, June 25th. We are each taking a leg and are looking forward to swimming, biking and running along the beautiful South Shore, including our favorite sheltered inlet, Sandy Cove. If you are in the area or participating, please look out for our team.

Rob Reilly, our Chief Investment Officer, recently attended Wharton to participate in the Certified Investment Management Analyst (CIMA) program. This certification is recognized by the financial services industry as the standard for advanced investment consulting. Toni Grimm has successfully completed the first half of the Certified Divorce Financial Analyst program. Additionally, Deirdre was recently nominated to The Boston Foundation's Professional Advisors Committee.

We are in our 7th year and 2017 has started off strong as we continue to grow our assets under management and family office practice. Our goal, as always, is to offer sound investment advice, guide our clients and help simplify the management of their financial affairs. Please feel welcome to introduce us to like-minded friends, family and advisors that may benefit from our services.

Wishing you and your family a happy and enjoyable spring season.

Warmly,

Deirdre, Rob, Jennifer, Kelley, Sherm, Toni, Courtney and Suellen

Market Review 2017 1Q: Continuing the momentum from the strong finish of 2016, U.S. stocks reached new highs during the first quarter. Growth expectations gathered momentum and business confidence surged. Economic data remained steady, providing a foundation for greater asset gains despite a lack of progress in Washington on stimulative fiscal policy. Large cap stocks, as represented by the S&P 500 Index, advanced 6% outperforming small and mid-cap companies. Global equities enjoyed significant gains despite increasing political risk as pivotal elections approached in France and as the U.K. officially launched the two-year process to remove itself from the European Union. Patient investors were finally rewarded as International developed stocks outpaced U.S. equities, the MSCI EAFE Index returned +7.2%. Emerging markets stocks rallied to post their best quarterly increase in five years. Reassuring economic data from China, higher prices for industrial metals and a weaker U.S. dollar all contributed to gains. The MSCI Emerging Markets Index surged over 11% to its highest level since June 2015.

1Q17 INDEX TOTAL RETURN PERFORMANCE

	YTD 2017	1 YEAR	3 YEAR	5 YEAR	10 YEAR		YTD 2017	1 YEAR	3 YEAR	5 YEAR	10 YEAR
US EQUITY INDEX						FIXED INCOME					
S&P 500 Large Cap	6.07%	17.2%	10.4%	13.3%	7.5%	Barclays Municipal Bond	0.21%	3.76%	2.30%	2.24%	3.76%
Russell Mid Cap	5.10%	16.8%	8.3%	12.9%	7.8%	Barclays US Aggregate Bond	0.82%	0.37%	2.64%	2.27%	4.14%
Russell 2000 Small Cap	2.48%	26.2%	7.3%	12.4%	7.2%	Barclays US Corporate High Yield	16.39%	16.39%	4.56%	6.82%	7.46%
WORLD EQUITY INDEX						OTHER					
MSCI ACWI All World	6.84%	15.13%	5.29%	8.52%		Dow Jones REIT	-0.34%	0.91%	9.66%	9.15%	4.05%
MSCI EAFE Established Markets	7.23%	11.60%	0.42%	5.74%	0.97%	S&P GSCI Commodities	-5.19%	7.55%	-23.43%	-15.80%	-9.86%
MSCI EM Emerging Markets	11.31%	16.55%	0.63%	0.21%	2.04%	Alerian MLP Index	4.26%	32.32%	-9.51%	-0.08%	5.79%

**data as of 3/31/2017*

Within fixed income, investors earned positive returns in almost all segments despite tightening U.S. monetary policy. In March, the Fed hiked rates for the second time in as many quarters. The market anticipates that the central bank will follow through with its projection to raise short-term interest rates two more times this year. Treasury yields have settled into a new range, with the 10-year Treasury closing the quarter at 2.40%, down from 2.45% at year end, but up from 1.78% a year ago. Municipals, after months of softness related to the threat of tax reform, rebounded nicely as demand remained strong. Commodities were the only major asset class to post a negative return for the quarter, as crude oil, natural gas, and gasoline all traded off year-end levels.

Looking Forward: Since the end of the quarter, markets have been roughly flat as they digest gains with a leery eye focused on the economy, earnings, geopolitics and seasonal factors. Below we'll examine each of these topics.

The Global Economy: Just prior to the US presidential election, signs of a positive turn in economic growth began to occur in the worldwide economy. Manufacturing Purchasing Managers Indexes (PMIs), which

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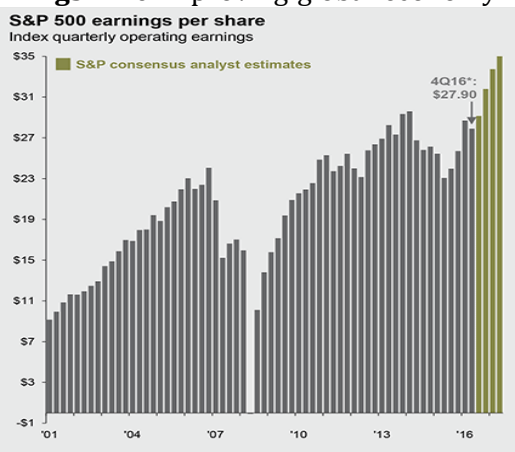
correlate very well to overall economic growth, have turned broadly positive and show signs of continued momentum. The Heat map to the right (Green = acceleration, Red = contraction), illustrates a steadily improving economic backdrop. We are in a much better environment than we were in six months ago as the super tanker economies of the US and Europe gradually move toward better economic growth with China not far behind.

Global Purchasing Managers' Index for manufacturing

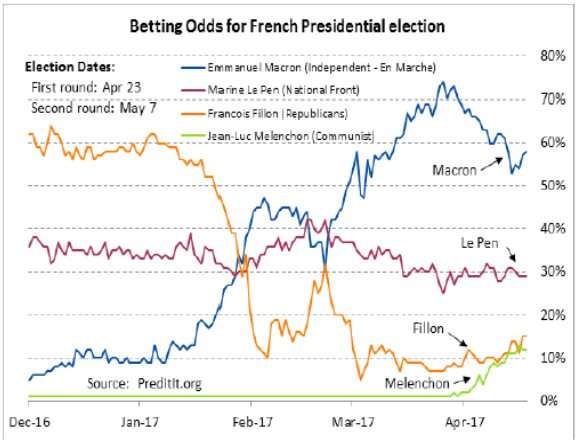
	Apr'15	May'15	Jun'15	Jul'15	Aug'15	Sep'15	Oct'15	Nov'15	Dec'15	Jan'16	Feb'16	Mar'16	Apr'16	May'16	Jun'16	Jul'16	Aug'16	Sep'16	Oct'16	Nov'16	Dec'16	Jan'17	Feb'17	Mar'17
Global	50.8	51.1	50.9	50.8	50.5	50.4	51.0	51.0	50.7	50.9	50.0	50.7	50.2	50.1	50.4	51.0	50.7	51.0	51.9	52.0	52.7	52.7	53.0	53.0
Developed Markets	52.1	52.4	52.1	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	54.6	53.9
Emerging Markets	49.3	49.5	49.2	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	51.3	51.6
U.S.	54.1	54.0	53.6	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
Canada	49.0	49.8	51.3	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
UK	52.3	52.2	51.5	52.3	51.8	51.3	54.9	52.5	51.3	52.3	50.9	51.2	49.7	50.7	52.5	48.2	53.5	55.2	54.6	53.5	56.0	55.4	54.5	54.2
Euro Area	52.0	52.2	52.5	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
Germany	52.1	51.1	51.9	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
France	48.0	49.4	50.7	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
Italy	53.8	54.8	54.1	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
Spain	54.2	55.8	54.5	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
Greece	46.5	48.0	46.9	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
Ireland	55.8	57.1	54.6	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
Australia	48.0	52.3	44.2	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
Japan	49.9	50.9	50.1	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
China	48.9	49.2	49.4	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

Earnings: The improving global economy has resulted in both higher expected and reported corporate earnings which have been quite supportive of stock prices. There is much chatter about the elevated valuation levels in today's equity markets. However, significantly rising profits bring lower valuations. We will require earnings follow through. Any disappointments from the lofty expectations illustrated below will lead to a spate of downside volatility, though it is our contention that pullbacks will be shallow. First quarter earnings reports are just beginning to stream in and so far, so good.



Geopolitics: One fly in the ointment that can derail the steady progress of economic growth and improving earnings is the geopolitical scene. Here in the U.S., we are 100 days into the Trump administration, and markets are still hoping that talk of tax cuts, infrastructure spending and decreased regulation will lead to actual progress and legislative victories. Markets are less concerned with deliberations regarding health care reform and border walls and will exact a price if these issues continue to be prioritized. In our experience, politics can impact the markets at the margin and certainly add to volatility, but they are not a driver. We tend to give one party eight years in the White House and then we turn things over to the other party. There is a pendulum effect—regulation or taxes increase for eight years, then decrease for eight years. The markets adapt to this cycle.

Outside the U.S., North Korean sabre rattling and chest thumping can certainly take a disturbing turn at any moment. On a saner note, elections in Europe, particularly in France, are also a major concern. While markets were relieved with the first place showing of the pro-business candidate Emmanuel Macron, a loss to Marine Le Pen in the run-off election on May 7th would be quite a blow to business interests in Europe. A Le Pen government would be seen as both protectionist and anti-European Union (EU). On the heels of the UK's recent plans to leave the EU, similar loud rumblings from French citizens would lead to a tough ride for European stock and bond prices in the short term. If Le Pen were to be elected, she would likely have a small margin of power



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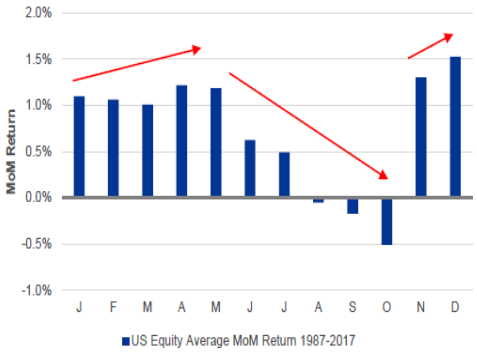
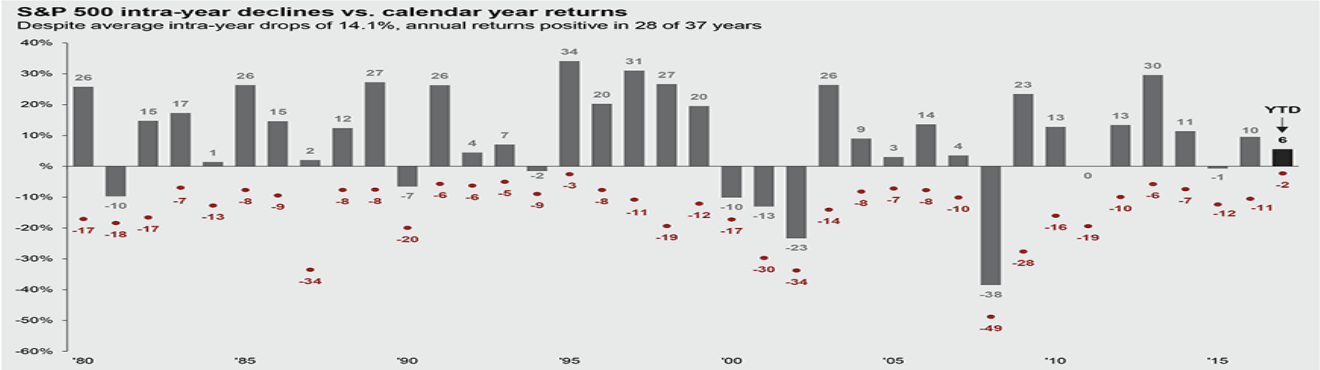
and little in the way of a legislative mandate. Currently, odds favor Macron but Brexit results have taught us to be leery of polls. Note that Britain's decision to leave the EU led to an initial sharp market decline, only to be followed by higher levels shortly thereafter.

'Tis the Season: Due to the timing of institutional and retail cash flows, summer vacation mentalities and various unexplained factors, there is a certain seasonality to the buying and selling decisions of market participants. Post May, we enter a time when prices have historically been flat to down (see chart to the left). While we are not predicting any single major event on the horizon, we do feel it is prudent to rebalance portfolios after equities have a run-up as we have just experienced. We have been trimming our equity allocations (taking profits), so that our investors are in line with their strategic asset allocations. We are thus in good shape to allocate to equities, at better valuations, if we do see some downside in the coming months.

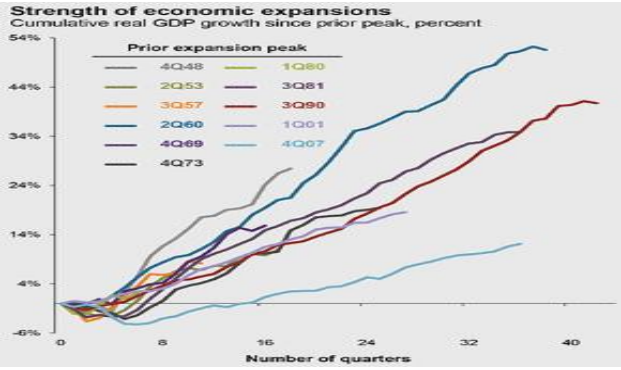


Given the constructive backdrop for equities and other risk assets, we are wise to remind ourselves that volatility is expected and equity prices have historically been quite resilient despite seasonal selling. As the chart below highlights, the market falls about 14% in any given year, but in 28 of the last 37 years the market has posted a positive annual return after each pullback. In baseball terms, that's like a batter hitting 750.



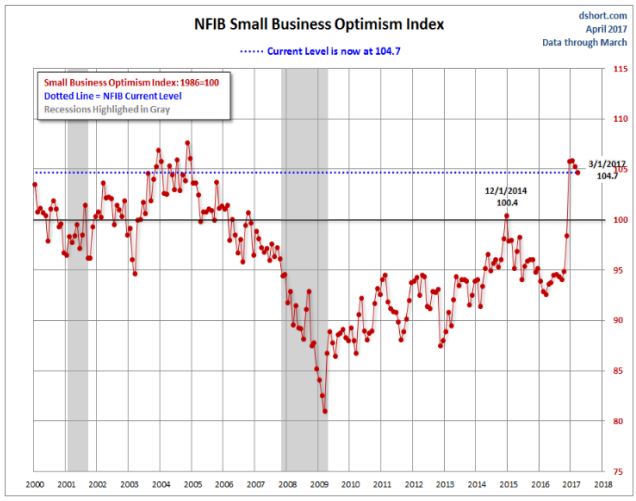
Source: FactSet, Standard & Poor's, J.P. Morgan Asset Management.

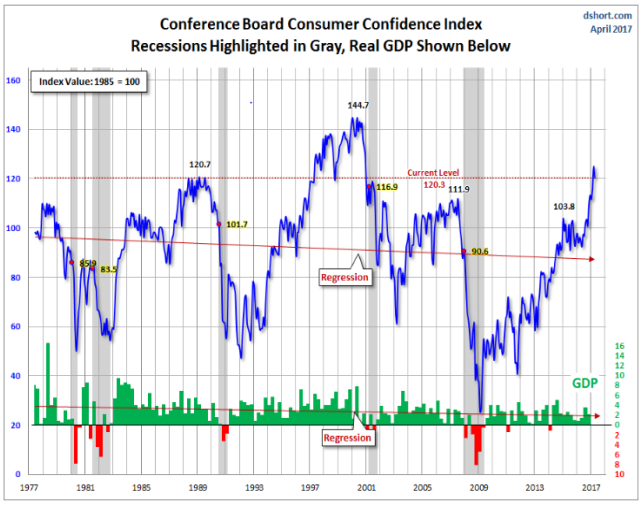
Lastly, what gives us comfort, when we look at the longer term picture, is not only an improving economy and earnings picture, but the fact that this post crisis recovery is still lagging past recoveries by such a wide margin. As the chart to the left highlights, this recovery (light blue line at bottom) has paled in comparison to expansions dating back to the 1940's.



So, why would a lagging recovery give us a somewhat awkward sense of comfort? In a word: Confidence. Confidence surveys are a leading indicator for the economy. Recently we've seen a broad spectrum of economic players exhibiting

increasing confidence. Consumer, CEO and small business confidence measures are all posting 10- 15 years highs. In the past, surging confidence has led to increased spending, higher profits and higher asset prices.





Stretched valuations, geopolitical events, negative economic surprises and numerous other factors can cause any asset class to sell off. However, as our last chart points out, over the last 15 years, investors have been well rewarded for taking a balanced and diversified approach in their portfolios. A well diversified 60% / 40% asset allocation has produced a better result than an all equity portfolio with a third less volatility.

2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	YTD	2002 - 2016 Ann.	2002 - 2016 Vol.
Comdty. 25.9%	EM Equity 56.3%	REITs 31.6%	EM Equity 34.5%	REITs 35.1%	EM Equity 39.8%	Fixed Income 5.2%	EM Equity 79.0%	REITs 27.9%	REITs 8.3%	REITs 19.7%	Small Cap 38.8%	REITs 28.0%	REITs 2.8%	Small Cap 21.3%	EM Equity 11.5%	REITs 10.8%	EM Equity 23.8%
Fixed Income 10.3%	Small Cap 47.3%	EM Equity 26.0%	Comdty. 21.4%	EM Equity 32.6%	Comdty. 16.2%	Cash 1.8%	High Yield 59.4%	Small Cap 26.9%	Fixed Income 7.8%	High Yield 19.6%	Large Cap 32.4%	Large Cap 13.7%	Large Cap 1.4%	High Yield 14.3%	DM Equity 7.4%	EM Equity 9.8%	REITs 22.6%
High Yield 4.1%	DM Equity 39.2%	DM Equity 20.7%	DM Equity 14.0%	DM Equity 26.9%	DM Equity 11.6%	Asset Alloc. -25.4%	DM Equity 32.5%	EM Equity 19.2%	High Yield 3.1%	EM Equity 18.6%	DM Equity 23.3%	Fixed Income 6.0%	Fixed Income 0.5%	Large Cap 12.0%	Large Cap 6.1%	High Yield 9.2%	Small Cap 20.1%
REITs 3.8%	REITs 37.1%	Small Cap 18.3%	REITs 12.2%	Small Cap 18.4%	Asset Alloc. 7.1%	Hig Yield -26.9%	REITs 28.0%	Comdty. 16.8%	Large Cap 2.1%	DM Equity 17.9%	Asset Alloc. 14.9%	Asset Alloc. 5.2%	Cash 0.0%	Comdty. 11.8%	Asset Alloc. 3.8%	Small Cap 8.5%	DM Equity 19.2%
Cash 1.7%	High Yield 32.4%	High Yield 13.2%	Asset Alloc. 8.1%	Large Cap 15.8%	Fixed Income 7.0%	Small Cap -33.8%	Small Cap 27.2%	Large Cap 15.1%	Cash 0.1%	Small Cap 16.3%	High Yield 7.3%	Small Cap 4.9%	DM Equity 0.4%	EM Equity 11.6%	High Yield 3.2%	Asset Alloc. 6.9%	Comdty. 19.0%
Asset Alloc. -5.9%	Large Cap 28.7%	Asset Alloc. 12.8%	Large Cap 4.9%	Asset Alloc. 15.3%	Large Cap 5.5%	Comdty. -35.6%	Large Cap 26.5%	High Yield 14.8%	Asset Alloc. -0.7%	Large Cap 16.0%	REITs 2.9%	Cash 0.0%	Asset Alloc. -2.0%	REITs 8.6%	REITs 2.5%	Large Cap 6.7%	Large Cap 15.9%
EM Equity -6.0%	Asset Alloc. 26.3%	Large Cap 10.9%	Small Cap 4.6%	High Yield 13.7%	Cash 4.8%	Large Cap -37.0%	Asset Alloc. 25.0%	Asset Alloc. 13.3%	Small Cap -4.2%	Asset Alloc. 12.2%	Cash 0.0%	High Yield 0.0%	High Yield -2.7%	Asset Alloc. 8.3%	Small Cap 2.5%	DM Equity 5.8%	High Yield 11.7%
DM Equity -15.7%	Comdty. 23.9%	Comdty. 9.1%	High Yield 3.6%	Cash 4.8%	High Yield 3.2%	REITs -37.7%	Comdty. 18.9%	DM Equity 8.2%	DM Equity -11.7%	Fixed Income 4.2%	Fixed Income -2.0%	EM Equity -1.8%	Small Cap -4.4%	Fixed Income 2.6%	Fixed Income 0.8%	Fixed Income 4.6%	Asset Alloc. 11.0%
Small Cap -20.5%	Fixed Income 4.1%	Fixed Income 4.3%	Cash 3.0%	Fixed Income 4.3%	Small Cap -1.6%	DM Equity -43.1%	Fixed Income 5.9%	Fixed Income 6.5%	Comdty. -13.3%	Cash 0.1%	EM Equity -2.3%	DM Equity -4.5%	EM Equity -14.6%	DM Equity 1.5%	Cash 0.1%	Cash 1.3%	Fixed Income 3.5%
Large Cap -22.1%	Cash 1.0%	Cash 1.2%	Fixed Income 2.4%	Comdty. 2.1%	REITs -15.7%	EM Equity -53.2%	Cash 0.1%	Cash 0.1%	EM Equity -18.2%	Comdty. -1.1%	Comdty. -9.5%	Comdty. -17.0%	Comdty. -24.7%	Cash 0.3%	Comdty. -2.3%	Comdty. 1.2%	Cash 0.8%

Source: Barclays, Bloomberg, FactSet, MSCI, NAREIT, Russell, Standard & Poor's, J.P. Morgan Asset Management.

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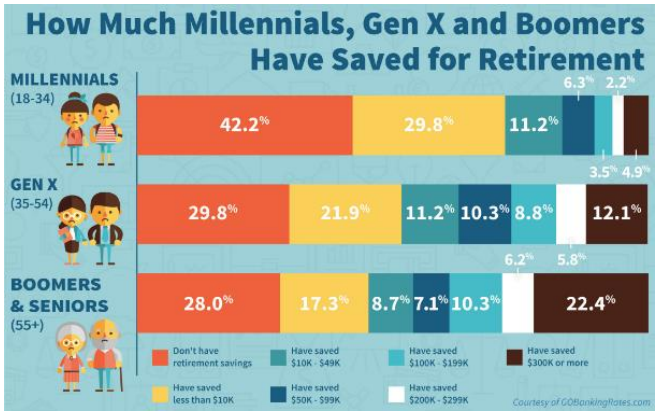
Roth Opportunities for Teens and Young Adults

Roth: How and How Much to Contribute

A Roth IRA offers tax-free growth, making it a very attractive vehicle for young investors to take advantage of decades of compounding. If a child has earned income (reported on a tax return) from a summer job or other work, a full or partial Roth contribution may be an option. Earned income does not include interest or dividends.

A child must have earned income, but he or she does not have to personally contribute the money to the Roth; a parent (or anyone else) can fund the Roth IRA as a gift. Just remember, they cannot save more in a Roth than they earned. So if they work a summer job and made only $3,000, the most they (or you) could contribute to their Roth would be $3,000.



Accounts for minors are usually established with an adult custodian to oversee the account until the child is 18 or 21. Any money contributed to the kids' Roth IRA by someone else is considered a gift. This may be accomplished without any income tax or estate tax complications through use of the annual gift-tax exclusion.

The current limit for 2017 tax-year Roth contribution is $5,500 a year for an individual under the age of 50. One must also have adjusted gross income below certain levels to make Roth contributions, which generally won't restrict young savers (for the 2017 tax-year, the phase out begins at $118,000 and ineligibility begins at $133,000). The deadline for a 2017 tax-year contribution is April 18, 2018.

The Value of a Roth

When a young adult is just starting to invest, the Roth should be their first stop --- even before they open a taxable account, or contribute to a workplace retirement-savings plan. There are exceptions; if their employer offers a match on their 401(K) contributions, or if they are able to make Roth contributions to

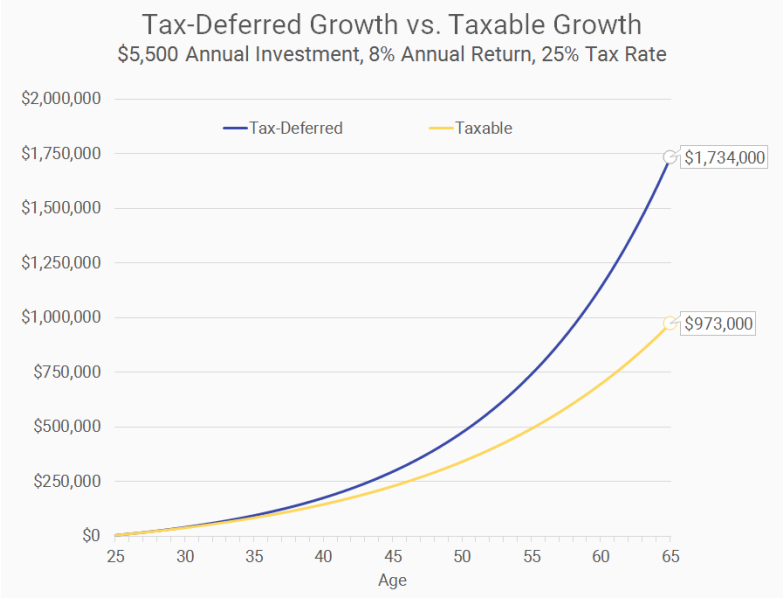
their 401(K). A match is free money that should not be passed up, and the young adult should consider contributing enough to win the match, then send any additional money to the Roth IRA. (Yes, they can invest in both a Roth and a workplace retirement plan.)

Roth IRAs Age Well

Age	$1,000 A Year	$2,000 A Year	$3,000 A Year	$4,000 A Year	$5,500 A Year	Gradual Increase
15	$1,000	$2,000	$3,000	$4,000	$5,500	$1,000
30	$24,673	$49,345	$74,018	$98,690	$135,699	$37,284
60	$225,508	$451,016	$676,524	$902,032	$1,240,295	$612,935
70	$417,822	$835,645	$1,253,467	$1,671,289	$2,298,023	$1,174,517

Assumes a 6% annual rate of return.

For those just starting out, the power of this tax shelter may seem a tad obscure, but it can really pay off big. If a 25-year-old contributes $5,500 each year until she retires and makes an average return of 8% on her investment, she'll have $1.7 million saved by the time she is 65. And the money is all hers – she won't have to give the IRS a cent of it if she waits until retirement to withdraw the earnings.



Withdrawing From Your Roth

Roth IRA owners may withdraw contributions at any time without taxes or penalties. Earnings growth above contributions may be taxable and subject to a 10% penalty if withdrawn before 59 ½. There is no mandatory withdrawal age, meaning assets can continue to grow tax-free even well into retirement. Upon death, a Roth IRA can pass income tax-free to heirs. Non-spouse heirs must take distributions based on their life expectancies set by the IRA but the required distributions are generally tax-free.

Young adults may tap their Roth to buy their first home. As noted, you can always withdraw contributions tax-and penalty-free for any purpose. If using contributions for a first-home purchase, an individual can

withdraw up to $10,000 of earnings tax- and penalty-free if the account has been open for at least five years. If the account is less than five years young, the withdrawal will still be penalty-free, but a tax will be incurred on the withdrawn earnings. That $10,000 limit is per person, so couples could withdraw up to $20,000 of earnings if they each have a Roth.

However, let us not let the withdrawal conversation to get us too far ahead of ourselves. For now, we will stress the importance of encouraging your child to open a Roth as soon as they have earned, reportable income. If you have any questions, or would like to consider a Roth IRA for you or your child, please contact us at 617-622-1500.

Sources: Fidelity, IRS, Sandy Cove Advisors, Vanguard

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LIFESTYLE

Those Who Host Lose the Most

'Tis the season with proms and graduations as important milestones in young people's lives and a wonderful cause for celebration. Many of us will be hosting parties and events associated with these occasions, but as a host it's important to remember what can be at stake, and how to protect yourselves, your property and our youth. When teens consume alcohol the party can easily become out of the control for the most vigilant parent. Allowing teens to drink in your home is against the law, and puts you and your assets at great risk.

Social host refers to ANYONE (adult or minor) who hosts a party where alcohol is served on property they control. Through social host liability laws, adults can be held responsible for the actions of underage individuals regardless of who furnishes the alcohol. Violators of this law may face significant fines and even jail time. Additionally, you could be billed for law enforcement services and held liable for injuries sustained by third parties. Here are a few frequently asked questions about the Social Host Law pertaining to the state of Massachusetts:

- **What does it mean to "furnish" the alcohol?**

"FURNISH" shall mean to knowingly or intentionally supply, give, provide to, or allow to possess alcoholic beverages on premises or property owned or controlled by the person charged.

- **What if my child allows underage guests to drink or possess alcohol at a property I control?**

You or your child may be charged criminally. For you to be found guilty under the Social Host Law, the Commonwealth must prove that you or your child knowingly or intentionally supplied, gave, provided, or allowed minors to possess alcohol at your home or other property you controlled. You or your child may also be sued civilly.

- **Does the Social Host Law apply if I rent a hotel room for my daughter's party?**

Yes, since you control the hotel room, the Social Host Law applies.

- **Will my homeowner's policy cover the costs of litigation and judgment against me or my child?**

You may or may not be covered, especially if the underage drinker causes injury or death by use of an automobile. Many insurance policies do not cover situations where criminal conduct is involved.

Of course, you are likely to host a graduation party where alcohol is available to the adults. To ensure a fun and safe celebration, you may consider hiring a bartender and police detail. The police detail will deter teens from sneaking alcohol into the party. It's important to be at home when your teenager has a party, and refuse to supply alcohol to children or allow drinking in your home. And for further peace of mind, have a look at your Umbrella Policy to be sure the insurance coverage is appropriate for your family.

FAMILY

A Heartwarming Note to Survive the College Admissions Madness

As a parent navigating the college acceptance season, you may find yourself feeling the same emotions as your college-bound child: ecstatic about their acceptance to the school of their dreams or disheartened over a rejection. One thing is for sure: each year there are record numbers of applicants yearning for acceptance at elite schools around the country, and most will be turned down. The realization is that graduating students rejected from their dream school will find themselves attending a school that will fulfill their academic and personal college experiences.

We recently came across a wonderful article written by Frank Bruni, New York Times columnist and author of, "Where You Go Is Not Who You'll Be: An Antidote to the College Admissions Mania." The article dissects the madness and pressure of the college admissions game, while encouraging parents and students to accept the hand dealt as the college you attend is not the single factor in determining your professional achievements. Within the article, Bruni references a letter delivered to an accomplished student by his parents on the eve of the college acceptance letter season. The letter is as follows:

Dear Matt,

On the night before you receive your first college response, we wanted to let you know that we could not be any prouder of you than we are today. Whether or not you get accepted does not determine how proud we are of everything you have accomplished and the wonderful person you have become. That will not change based on what admissions officers decide about your future. We will celebrate with joy wherever you get accepted — and the happier you are with those responses, the happier we will be. But your worth as a person, a student and our son is not diminished or influenced in the least by what these colleges have decided.

If it does not go your way, you'll take a different route to get where you want. There is not a single college in this country that would not be lucky to have you, and you are capable of succeeding at any of them.

We love you as deep as the ocean, as high as the sky, all the way around the world and back again — and to wherever you are headed.

The wisdom, pride and sincerity of this letter is a message worth spreading to our children and grandchildren as they face the college acceptance season. It's important to remember that rejection will pass, but these kind and supportive words will live with our children well beyond their college years and into their professional and personal lives.

Please visit https://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/15/opinion/sunday/frank-bruni-how-to-survive-the-college-admissions-madness.html?_r=1 to read the full article by New York Times columnist and author, Frank Bruni.