Returns for the 1st quarter of 2017 were positive across equity and fixed income indices. Broad domestic and international equity market performance was fueled by largely improving global economic data. While domestic equity indices trailed international equity indices due to U.S. Dollar (USD) weakness, performance was solid on the back of Trump administration campaign promises for pro-business policy initiatives, government regulation rollbacks, tax reform, and domestic infrastructure investment. Despite concerns over the duration of the equity market’s current run, this policy optimism caused many major domestic indices to reach all-time highs at various points during the quarter. Large cap stocks reversed a recent trend of small cap equity outperformance during the quarter with the S&P 500 Index returning 6.1% versus a weaker 2.5% return for the Russell 2000 Index. Despite their relatively muted quarterly performance, small cap stocks still handedly outperformed large cap issues over the 1-year period with the Russell 2000 returning 26.2% versus a 17.2% return for the S&P 500.

U.S. equity index returns were largely positive across the style and capitalization spectrum for the 1st quarter and the trailing 1-year period. Domestic equity index returns were driven by optimism surrounding the Trump administration’s previously referenced pro-growth agenda. Markets were also driven higher by positive trends in economic data reported throughout the period including improvements in consumer and business sentiment, corporate earnings, and employment. The only major setback to the 1st quarter’s optimism was the GOP’s failure to repeal the Affordable Care Act in late March. This event raised market concerns surrounding the expediency and impact of future promised policy changes.