ESTATE COUNSELORS, LLC

ASSET MANAGEMENT

The Market Week in Review

For Week Ending March 25, 2017

THE MARKETS

All eyes were focused on Capitol Hill this week as the new health care bill vote came underway. News came on Tuesday that the Republicans failed to quickly unite on the proposed bill which sent the S&P into its first 1% selloff in more than 100 days. Market participants shifted into Treasuries as uncertainty grew, sending the yield on the 10 Year Note 10 basis points lower to 2.40%. Tech stocks attempted to pull the markets back into the black as the week progressed, but all the major averages still finished the week lower. Crude oil prices moved 2.8% lower to under $48 a barrel as the U.S. rig count increased by 20. After stumbling into the month, gold moved higher for a second week, closing at nearly $1,250 an ounce.

Index	Started Week	Ended Week	Change	% Change	YTD %
DJIA	20,914.62	20,596.72	-317.90	-1.52%	4.22%
Nasdaq	5,901.00	5,828.74	-72.26	-1.22%	8.28%
S&P 500	2,378.25	2,343.98	-34.27	-1.44%	4.70%
Russell 2000	1,391.52	1,354.64	-36.88	-2.65%	-0.18%

DAILY DEVELOPMENTS

MONDAY

The Chicago Fed's National Activity Index flipped into positive territory for February's reading of 0.34. The three month moving average also went positive to a two year high of 0.25. Positives for both employment and payroll growth led the index higher and manufacturing showed strength as well. Personal consumption and housing were soft spots in the report.

TUESDAY

There was no major economic news on Tuesday.

Contact Us

- Our Website: www.estatecounselors.com
- Our Email: firm@estatecounselors.com
- Our Phone Number: (262) 238-6996
- Our Address: 414 N. Main Street Thiensville, WI 53092

WEDNESDAY

Existing home sales slid 3.7% in February to an annualized rate of 5.48 million units. Still, total year over year sales were up 5.4%. The median sales price is at $228,400 and supply, while thin at 3.8 months, increased to 1.75 million units. Average days on the market are short at 45, versus 59 a year ago.

THURSDAY

Jobless claims increased 15,000 to 258,000 for the week of March 8th, according to the Labor Department. The four week average rose only 1,000 to 240,000 which shows how low recent readings have been. In lagging data for the March 11th week, continuing claims were down 39,000 to 2.0 million. Here, the four week average dropped by 32,000 to 2.03 million.

New home sales rose 6.1% in February to an annualized rate of 592,000. However, the boost could be due to the median sales price which fell 3.9% to $296,200 and is now 4.9% below the year ago level. Sales were strongest in the Midwest and supply rose 4,000 with 266,000 homes currently on the market.

FRIDAY

New orders for durable goods rose in February for the second straight month. In a positive sign for the economy, the 1.7% advancement reflected a spike in aircraft orders which jumped 48%. Stripping out the volatile transportation component the core reading moved only 0.4% higher, halving the Econoday forecast. Weakness in the report was centered around business investment, although the inputs into first quarter GDP numbers are all positive.

TIDBITS

President Trump laid down the gauntlet to the Republican party this week as he threatened to abandon the health care movement and move on to tax reform if they fail pass the American Health Care Act.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Liberal institutions straightaway cease from being liberal the moment they are firmly established."
- Friedrich Nietzshe

We hope you have found the information in this week's market summary informative. If you would like to comment on any of the information found in this week's Market Week in Review please email us at firm@estatecounselors.com. If you would like to discuss how current market conditions could impact your investments, please feel free to call us at the number listed below.

Best regards,

Estate Counselors, LLC
414 N. Main Street
Thiensville, WI 53092
Phone (262) 238-6996
Fax (262) 238-6999
www.estatecounselors.com

Important Disclosures: The information and statistics in The Market Week in Review have been obtained from sources we believe to be reliable but are not guaranteed by us to be accurate or complete. Any and all earnings, projections, and estimates assume certain conditions and industry developments, which are subject to change. The opinions stated are those of Estate Counselors, LLC, but are not intended to be a substitute for personal investment advice. Services provided by Estate Counselors, LLC do not constitute legal services and are not being provided by Willms, S.C. law firm. Communications between Estate Counselors, LLC and its clients are therefore not covered by the attorney-client privilege, and as a result may be discoverable by third parties. All such communications are, however, covered by Estate Counselors, LLC's privacy policy, a copy of which is available on request. Please let us know if you would like to discontinue receiving it. Thank you.