Quarterly Market Review: 2019-Q2

For ClearLogic Financial

Equity markets around the globe posted positive returns for the quarter. Looking at broad market indices, US equities outperformed non-US developed and emerging markets during the quarter.

Value stocks outperformed growth stocks in emerging markets but underperformed in developed markets, including the US. Small caps underperformed large caps in all regions.
REIT indices underperformed equity market indices in both the US and non-US developed markets.
The first chart is a snapshot of the market performance for the second quarter. The second chart presents the world stock market performance over the past year. While volatility in the market may make some investors anxious, the article on page three is a good reminder of why we should stay with long-term strategies. Your 2019 second quarter portfolio review report is posted to the ModestSpark portal.

	US Stock Market	International Developed Stocks	Emerging Markets Stocks	Global Real Estate	US Bond Market	Global Bond Market ex US
Q2 2019	**STOCKS**				**BONDS**	
	4.10%	**3.79%**	**0.61%**	**1.29%**	**3.08%**	**2.75%**
Since Jan. 2001						
Avg. Quarterly Return	2.0%	1.5%	2.9%	2.6%	1.2%	1.1%
Best Quarter	16.8% 2009 Q2	25.9% 2009 Q2	34.7% 2009 Q2	32.3% 2009 Q3	4.6% 2001 Q3	4.6% 2008 Q4
Worst Quarter	-22.8% 2008 Q4	-21.1% 2008 Q4	-27.6% 2008 Q4	-36.1% 2008 Q4	-3.0% 2016 Q4	-2.7% 2015 Q2

Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Indices are not available for direct investment. Index performance does not reflect the expenses associated with the management of an actual portfolio. Market segment (index representation) as follows: US Stock Market (Russell 3000 Index), International Developed Stocks (MSCI World ex USA Index [net div.]), Emerging Markets (MSCI Emerging Markets Index [net div.]), Global Real Estate (S&P Global REIT Index [net div.]), US Bond Market (Bloomberg Barclays US Aggregate Bond Index), and Global Bond Market ex US (Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate ex-USD Bond Index [hedged to USD]). S&P data © 2019 S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC, a division of S&P Global. All rights reserved. Frank Russell Company is the source and owner of the trademarks, service marks, and copyrights related to the Russell Indexes. MSCI data © MSCI 2019, all rights reserved. Bloomberg Barclays data provided by Bloomberg.

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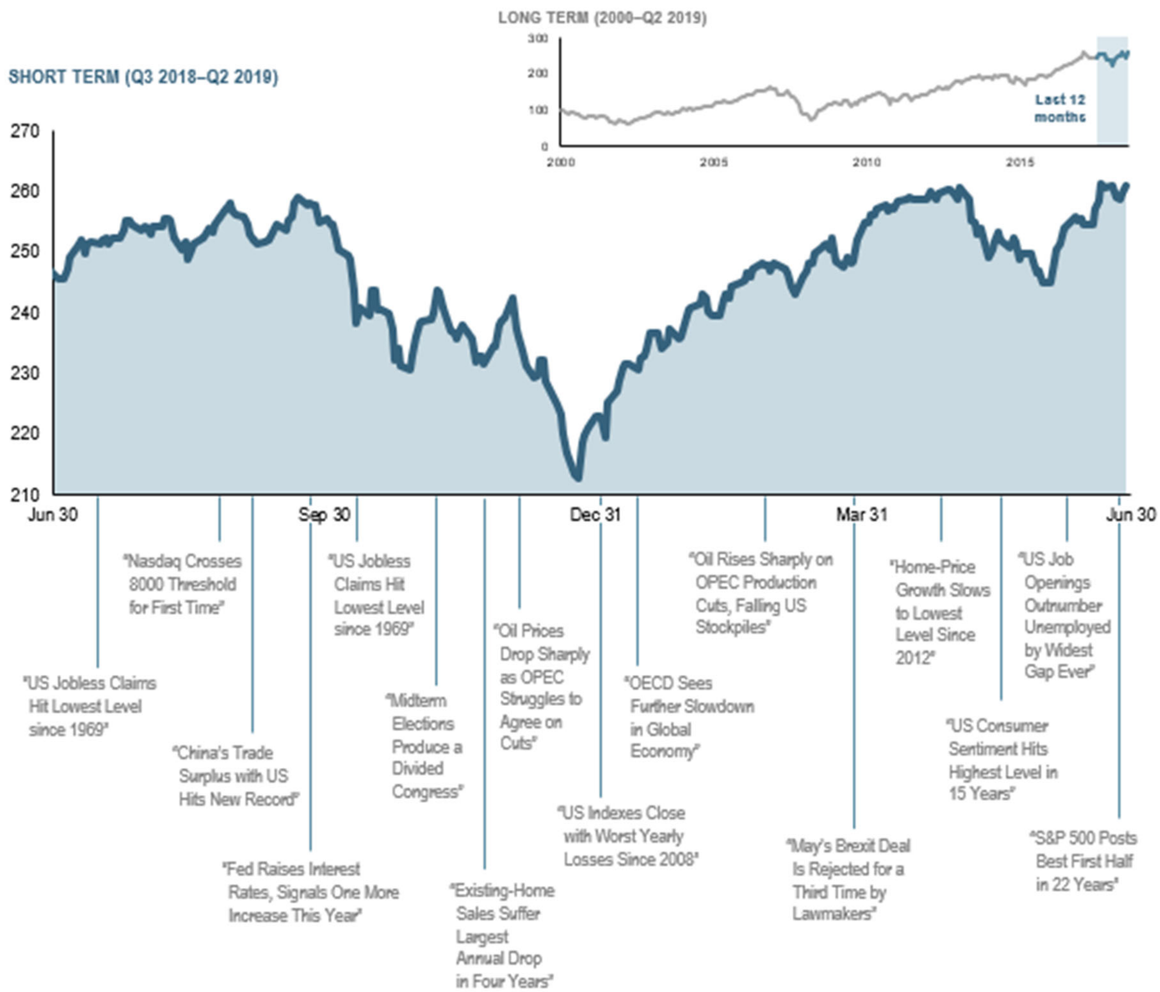
World Stock Market Performance

MSCI All Country World Index with selected headlines from past 12 months



These headlines are not offered to explain market returns. Instead, they serve as a reminder that investors should view daily events from a long-term perspective and avoid making investment decisions based solely on the news.

Graph Source: MSCI ACWI Index [net div.]. MSCI data © MSCI 2019, all rights reserved.
It is not possible to invest directly in an index. Performance does not reflect the expenses associated with management of an actual portfolio. **Past performance is not a guarantee of future results.**

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Timing Isn't Everything

Over the course of a summer, it's not unusual for the stock market to be a topic of conversation at barbeques or other social gatherings.

A neighbor or relative might ask about which investments are good at the moment. The lure of getting in at the right time or avoiding the next downturn may tempt even disciplined, long-term investors. The reality of successfully timing markets, however, isn't as straightforward as it sounds.

OUTGUESSING THE MARKET IS DIFFICULT

Attempting to buy individual stocks or make tactical asset allocation changes at exactly the "right" time presents investors with substantial challenges. First and foremost, markets are fiercely competitive and adept at processing information. During 2018, a daily average of $462.8 billion in equity trading took place around the world.[1] The combined effect of all this buying and selling is that available information, from economic data to investor preferences and so on, is quickly incorporated into market prices. Trying to time the market based on an article from this morning's newspaper or a segment from financial television? It's likely that information is already reflected in prices by the time an investor can react to it.

Dimensional recently studied the performance of actively managed mutual funds and found that even professional investors have difficulty beating the market: over the last 20 years, 77% of equity funds and 92% of fixed income funds failed to survive and outperform their benchmarks after costs.[2]

Further complicating matters, for investors to have a shot at successfully timing the market, they must make the call to buy or sell stocks correctly not just once, but twice. Professor Robert Merton, a Nobel laureate, said it well in a recent interview with Dimensional:

"Timing markets is the dream of everybody. Suppose I could verify that I'm a .700 hitter in calling market turns. That's pretty good; you'd hire me right away. But to be a good market timer, you've got to do it twice. What if the chances of me getting it right were independent each time? They're not. But if they were, that's 0.7 times 0.7. That's less than 50-50. So, market timing is horribly difficult to do."

TIME AND THE MARKET

The S&P 500 Index has logged an incredible decade. Should this result impact investors' allocations to equities? **Exhibit 1** suggests that new market highs have not been a harbinger of negative returns to come. The S&P 500 went on to provide positive average annualized returns over one, three, and five years following new market highs.

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1. In US dollars. Source: Dimensional, using data from Bloomberg LP. Includes primary and secondary exchange trading volume globally for equities. ETFs and funds are excluded. Daily averages were computed by calculating the trading volume of each stock daily as the closing price multiplied by shares traded that day. All such trading volume is summed up and divided by 252 as an approximate number of annual trading days.

2. Mutual Fund Landscape 2019.

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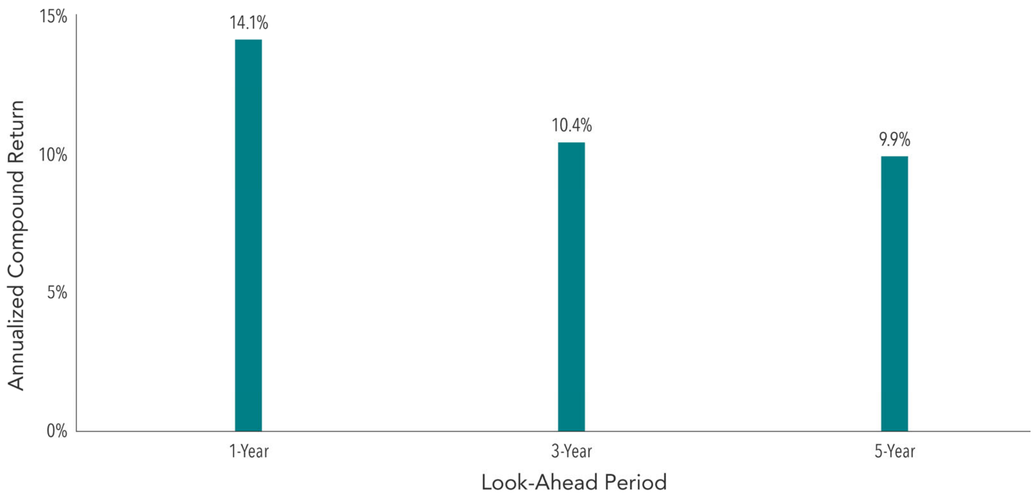
Exhibit 1. Average Annualized Returns After New Market Highs S&P 500, January 1926–December 2018



In US dollars. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. New market highs are defined as months ending with the market above all previous levels for the sample period. Annualized compound returns are computed for the relevant time periods subsequent to new market highs and averaged across all new market high observations. There were 1,115 observation months in the sample. January 1990–present: S&P 500 Total Returns Index. S&P data © 2019 S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC, a division of S&P Global. All rights reserved. January 1926–December 1989; S&P 500 Total Return Index, *Stocks, Bonds, Bills and Inflation Yearbook*™, Ibbotson Associates, Chicago. For illustrative purposes only. Index is not available for direct investment; therefore, its performance does not reflect the expenses associated with the management of an actual portfolio. There is always a risk that an investor may lose money.

CONCLUSION

Outguessing markets is more difficult than many investors might think. While favorable timing is theoretically possible, there isn't much evidence that it can be done reliably, even by professional investors. The positive news is that investors don't need to be able to time markets to have a good investment experience. Over time, capital markets have rewarded investors who have taken a long-term perspective and remained disciplined in the face of short-term noise. By focusing on the things, they can control (like having an appropriate asset allocation, diversification, and managing expenses, turnover, and taxes) investors can better position themselves to make the most of what capital markets have to offer.

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