



Quarterly Market Review: 2018-Q4

For ClearLogic Financial

We hope you and your family had a wonderful holiday season and are enjoying the new year thus far.

As shown in the charts for the fourth quarter of 2018 and the year as a whole, 2018 was a difficult one for equity investment returns across the board.

2018 Quarter 4 Market Performance

	US Stock Market	International Developed Stocks	Emerging Markets Stocks	Global Real Estate	US Bond Market	Global Bond Market ex US
Q4 2018	STOCKS				BONDS	
	-14.30%	-12.78%	-7.47%	-5.79%	1.64%	1.89%
Since Jan. 2001						
Avg. Quarterly Return	1.8%	1.3%	2.8%	2.4%	1.1%	1.1%
Best Quarter	16.8%	25.9%	34.7%	32.3%	4.6%	4.6%
	2009 Q2	2009 Q2	2009 Q2	2009 Q3	2001 Q3	2008 Q4
Worst Quarter	-22.8%	-21.2%	-27.6%	-36.1%	-3.0%	-2.7%
	2008 Q4	2008 Q4	2008 Q4	2008 Q4	2016 Q4	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.



2018 Annual Market Performance

	US Stock Market	International Developed Stocks	Emerging Markets Stocks	Global Real Estate	US Bond Market	Global Bond Market ex US
2018	STOCKS				BONDS	
	-5.24%	-14.09%	-14.58%	-5.90%	0.01%	3.17%
Since Jan. 2001						
Avg. Annual Return	7.6%	5.8%	13.1%	10.1%	4.5%	4.4%
Best Year	33.6% 2013	39.4% 2003	78.5% 2009	37.4% 2006	10.3% 2002	8.8% 2014
Worst Year	-37.3% 2008	-43.6% 2008	-53.3% 2008	-45.7% 2008	-2.0% 2013	1.2% 2013

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Why Should You Diversify

For the five-year period ending October 31, 2018, the S&P 500 Index had an annualized return of 11.34% while the MSCI World ex USA Index returned 1.86%, and the MSCI Emerging Markets Index returned 0.78%. As US stocks have outperformed international and emerging markets stocks over the last several years, some investors might be reconsidering the benefits of investing outside the US.

While there are many reasons why a US-based investor may prefer a degree of home bias in their equity allocation, using return differences over a relatively short period as the sole input into this decision may result in missing opportunities that the global markets offer. While international and emerging markets stocks have delivered disappointing returns relative to the US over the last few years, it is important to remember that:

- Non-US stocks help provide valuable diversification benefits.
- Recent performance is not a reliable indicator of future returns.



The Lost Decade

We can examine the potential opportunity cost associated with failing to diversify globally by reflecting on the period in global markets from 2000–2009. During this period, often called the “lost decade” by US investors, the S&P 500 Index recorded its worst ever 10-year performance with a total cumulative return of –9.1%. However, looking beyond US large cap equities, conditions were more favorable for global equity investors as most equity asset classes outside the US generated positive returns over the course of the decade. Expanding beyond this period and looking at performance for each of the 11 decades starting in 1900 and ending in 2010, the US market outperformed the world market in five decades and underperformed in the other six. This further reinforces why an investor pursuing the equity premium should consider a global allocation. By holding a globally diversified portfolio, investors are positioned to capture returns wherever they occur.

A Diversified Approach

Over long periods of time, investors may benefit from consistent exposure in their portfolios to both US and non-US equities. While both asset classes offer the potential to earn positive expected returns in the long run, they may perform quite differently over short periods. While the performance of different countries and asset classes will vary over time, there is no reliable evidence that this performance can be predicted in advance. An approach to equity investing that uses the global opportunity set available to investors can provide diversification benefits as well as potentially higher expected returns.



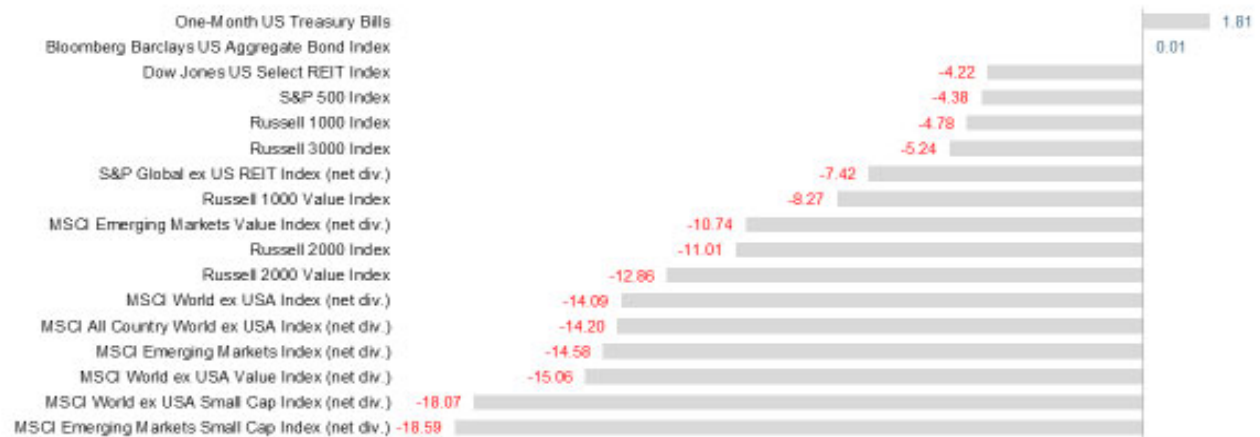
World Asset Class Performance

2018 Index Returns (%)

Equity markets around the world posted negative returns for 2018. Looking at broad market indices, the US outperformed non-US developed and emerging markets.

Value stocks were positive vs. growth stocks in emerging markets but negative in the US and non-US developed markets. Small caps underperformed large caps in the US, non-US developed, and emerging markets.

REIT indices outperformed equity market indices in both the US and non-US developed markets.



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