

MARCH 2017

THE DELTA ADVISOR™

A NEWSLETTER FOR DELTA PILOTS



Leading Authority on Successfully Investing Your 401k Plan

CAPTAIN'S BRIEFING:

NO CHANGE in the models.

- **Make sure you are keeping track of your trade dates for the 30-day hold period!**

Captain's Table — Go to page 5

"Why you can't predict markets".

SPRING FORWARD

**change Your clocks
March 12th**

Did you know: Although DST has only been used for about 100 years, the idea was conceived many years before. Ancient civilizations are known to have engaged in a practice similar to modern DST where they would adjust their daily schedules to the Sun's schedule. For example, the Roman water clocks used different scales for different months of the year.

Wayne Gretzky, a National Hockey League Hall of Fame inductee, is probably the greatest hockey player of all time. He had a storied career even though he lacked overwhelming size or strength; in fact he was a good 30 pounds lighter than the average player of his time. On the ice, he showed great stamina and a fast and accurate shot, but the guy also had remarkable instincts. He was unrivaled in his ability to handle the puck and has a great line about his anticipation on the ice: "I skate to where the puck is going to be, not to where it has been." Investors have played the markets just like Gretzky, rallying higher in anticipation of pro-business, pro-growth policies touted by the Trump Administration and a Republican congress.

Committed and Decisive

The first few weeks of the Trump administration have been busy, very much like all newly-elected presidents embarking on a first term in the Oval Office. There's plenty to do: the hiring of staff, Congressional hearings for cabinet-level nominees, and the debriefings of current operations, but markets aren't really responding to any of the "new Administration" minutiae. Market participants, like Wayne Gretzky, are getting positioned for where they believe policy is going to be, focusing mainly on the likelihood of more favorable tax policy and of less regulation. Let's look at a few of the executive orders signed by President Trump so far.

- An Obama-era regulation on coal has been put to bed.
- An order to reduce regulatory burdens on small businesses was signed into law.
- An order was signed to build a wall to protect our southern border.
- An order was signed to advance construction of the Keystone XL and Dakota Access pipelines.
- An order was signed to roll back some of the banking and financial regulations in The Dodd-Frank Act.
- An order was signed regarding our nation's healthcare system, essentially beginning the process of repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act, or "Obamacare".
- An order was signed to withdraw the United States from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).

(Continued on page 2)

"You're flying toward an unknown financial future— WE HAVE CHARTS!"



(Continued from page 1)

President Trump has made it clear that his administration will do its best to make good on key campaign policies, and that was clarified on the final day of February when President Trump made his first address to a joint-session of Congress. In the address, Trump discussed key policy issues including protecting our borders, immigration reform, renegotiating international trade deals, easing business regulation, and reforming healthcare, education, and the tax code. He didn't discuss many details, but the emphasis on protecting the American people and our economy was the real focus. Trump reiterated plans to stimulate job creation throughout his speech, and he stressed that our problems can be solved if the parties of government commit to working on them together.

There was a lot to digest, but investors have largely made their opinion clear since the election: "We think business will do well." Tax policy alone could do a lot to boost earnings. Some early research on the impact of proposed tax cuts suggest that a cut in the corporate tax rate from the present rate of 35% down to 25% could add as much as 9% to bottom line earnings. Deregulation will take many different forms, but various sectors are expected to benefit greatly as is evidenced in the recent rally. Financial, Healthcare, and Energy sector stocks have performed especially well although the Energy trade has backed up a bit since the beginning of the year.



Trump's presidency will also greatly influence the global economic landscape. Trump's campaign was filled with negative rhetoric on trade deals like the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the TPP. There are many facets to these shifts in policy, and they are largely interrelated. Obamacare contains rules regarding taxes, and trade deals will eventually work out measures regarding tariffs or a border adjustment tax. There is much to be seen regarding international trade deals, and currency manipulation has also been criticized (China, Trump has his eyes on you).

STOCKS

It's not just the prospects of a Trump agenda that's lifting stocks, it's also earnings. Most S&P 500 companies have reported Q4 2016 earnings at this point, and the blended earnings growth rate is 4.9%. It's been awhile since we've seen back-to-back quarters showing year-over-year earnings growth, but that's where we are. The S&P finished up 4.0% for the month of February and is up 5.9% for the year so far. Month-to-date and year-to-date small cap and mid cap stock returns are trailing the S&P by about a couple percentage points, as are international developed stocks, but one of the real winners so far is emerging markets which are up 3.8% for the month and 9.4% for the year.



Velocity Composite Fund Score™ Ranking

Ticker	Fund Name	Score	YTD	1MoPerf	3MoPerf
-	S&P 500 Index	1354	5.95%	3.98%	8.05%
-	Small/Mid Growth	1343	5.61%	2.61%	5.91%
-	International Equity	1329	5.24%	1.28%	7.31%
-	Large Cap Growth	1262	6.72%	3.23%	7.57%
-	Fid ContraFund Pool	1237	8.32%	3.83%	9.05%
-	Emerging Markets EQ	1209	7.97%	2.79%	9.75%
-	Emrg Mrkts Eq Idx	1081	9.18%	3.03%	8.78%
-	Large Cap Value	1079	4.19%	3.57%	5.91%
-	Intl Eq Idx	1064	4.37%	1.44%	7.99%
-	Small/Mid Cap Value	1056	2.43%	2.00%	5.08%
-	LifeCycle 2020	952	3.06%	1.73%	4.21%
RRRZX	Deut Real Estate R6	913	3.63%	3.89%	N/A
-	Small/Mid Cap Index	897	4.63%	2.44%	6.53%
GOBSX	LM BW Glb Opp Bd Is	689	3.68%	1.17%	N/A
-	Diversified Bond	613	1.32%	0.85%	1.80%
-	Bond Index	588	0.89%	0.64%	0.97%

APPROXIMATE Future Publication Dates
4/5/17
5/3/17
6/5/17
7/6/17
8/3/17
9/6/17
10/4/17
11/3/17
12/5/17

Ins Ctrct/Stable Value will not appear in the monthly rankings since it technically mimics a money market fund.

Definitions & Notes:

1. Tickers: The majority of the funds in the Delta Plan are not really mutual funds. They are composites or comingled funds, etc.

YOU WILL USE THE FUND NAME TO TRADE. Data from proxy funds is used to make all calculations for the funds listed above.

2. The funds above were selected to work, using the model system. There are other funds in the plan that are not used. There is no reason to have multiple international or emerging market funds, for example.

The Velocity Composite Fund Score Ranking combines the Velocity (speed of advance of a fund compared to all other funds) with its Buy Point Score (how close the fund is to a recent bottom). This composite score is used to rank all available fund choices. In defined Bull Market advances, the system uses the Top 3 funds in the Aggressive model and the Top 4 in the Moderate and Conservative models.

In Defined Bear Market periods, this ranking is provided for information purposes and for those who are “doing their own thing” and would like to know how the system views the funds. Rankings dates are the last business day of each month. Proxies of each fund are used to calculate the score and historical returns.

Delta 401k Plan Conservative Model

Symbol	Fund Name	Allocate
-	Ins Ctrct/Stable Value	60.00%
-	Large Cap Growth	10.00%
-	Small/Mid Growth	10.00%
-	S&P 500 Index	10.00%
-	International Equity	10.00%
		100.00%

Delta Pilots 401k Plan Moderate Model

Symbol	Fund Name	Allocate
-	Ins Ctrct/Stable Value	36.00%
-	Large Cap Growth	16.00%
-	Small/Mid Growth	16.00%
-	S&P 500 Index	16.00%
-	International Equity	16.00%
		100.00%

Delta Pilots 401k Plan Aggressive Model

Symbol	Fund Name	Allocate
-	Ins Ctrct/Stable Value	19.00%
-	Large Cap Growth	27.00%
-	Small/Mid Growth	27.00%
-	International Equity	27.00%
		100.00%

• NO CHANGE in the models

- IN A MONTH WITH TRADES—

THE NEW FUNDS WILL BE HIGHLIGHTED IN YELLOW

- **READ:** If your 401k plan has *any* trading restrictions, you must keep track of your buy and sell orders. Fidelity does a poor job of defining what excessive trading is and has expanded that definition to include all funds.

- **Future Contributions:** The models work smoothly if you direct **ALL** future contributions into the Ins Ctrct/Stable Value. Then, they will be automatically invested into the correct allocation when you make changes to follow a model.

Is your credit card about to expire? Have you recently received a new card OR have you requested a new credit card because of vendor security issues?

To update new CREDIT CARD information BEFORE your credit card expires, either call us at 717-569-8162 or go to the “Update Credit Card Information” section under the Member’s Tab.

Fear & Greed Index The S&P 500 soared to new highs in February, finishing the month up almost +4%, so it's of little surprise that the Fear/Greed needle was comfortably in the "Greed" camp at month end. For the year, the market is up almost +6%, and it's surged more than +11% since the November election.



Bull Bear Oscillator vs. S&P 500 Index



Worry-Free 401k Flight Path Models™ - Delta

Aggressive Model

Moderate Model

Conservative Model

S&P 500 Index



DAL-Like the market, Delta stock (DAL) soared in February, bouncing back nicely from a negative showing in January due to travel ban fears. DAL was up more than +8% a few times in February, and finished the month up almost +6%, handily beating the NYSE Airline Index which was up less than +2%.

■ DAL ■ S&P 500 ■ XAL



Delta Pilots 401k Plan (as of February 28, 2017)

Performance Stats

	YTD	1 Month	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years	Inception
Conservative Model Annualized	1.70%	1.10%	7.70%	2.03%	18.74%	30.36%	88.22%
				0.67%	3.50%	2.69%	3.79%
Moderate Model Annualized	2.90%	1.80%	9.40%	9.05%	35.10%	53.94%	181.54%
				2.93%	6.20%	4.41%	6.28%
Aggressive Model Annualized	3.30%	2.00%	13.70%	12.74%	49.27%	84.05%	283.05%
				4.08%	8.34%	6.29%	8.22%
S&P 500	5.94%	5.36%	23.75%	37.29%	94.09%	111.77%	132.36%
				11.14%	14.18%	7.79%	5.08%



from the CAPTAIN'S TABLE

Trump Rally latest example of why you can't predict markets

Raise your hand if you saw this coming. The Dow Jones Industrial average ran its consecutive positive close streak to eleven days in a row with its close of +9.1 points Friday. That also marks the 11th straight record high, which is the longest such streak since 1987. Three more positive closes in a row will match the record 14-session winning streak last seen in...1897, according to data compiled by Bespoke Investment Group.

The Dow is up nearly 9.1% over the past three months, with investors attributing gains largely to Trump's November election victory. Investors are betting that Trump's policies on taxes and regulation will accelerate economic growth and boost corporate earnings. But what were they saying a few months ago? The tone was markedly different. Market crash predictions abounded from all corners of the investment world as the pundits and analysts pondered a Trump victory. Certainly, none of these market gurus could have foreseen eleven consecutive record closes. "A Trump win will be bad for stocks", "A Trump win will tank the markets" were some of the headlines. Oh, it crashed all right, but many folks slept right through it. As it became increasingly more obvious on election night that Trump was going to win, premarket stock futures slid down almost 800 points...predicting, for a brief time, that the market was going to welcome Trump's victory by opening deep in red territory. However, by the time the market actually opened a few hours later, the pressure on stocks had abated. And to the surprise of the world, the market finished UP almost 300 points that day.

Could the market gurus have been more wrong? Well, yes. This dwindling gaggle of soothsayers also predicted doom and gloom last year in what became

known as Brexit. Brexit, short for "British exit", was the vote by the British citizens to exit the European Union back in June of 2016. There were two failed predictions here by the experts. The first was that there was no way the Brits would vote to leave. Secondly, and more importantly for investors, experts once again predicted that markets would crash all over the world if this happened. Well it happened and while markets sold off sharply at first, they recovered in a few short days. Now, months later, Brexit is a distant memory as the U.K., too, recently set an all-time high record close.

Then there was the crash of 2008. While there were many that saw trouble on the horizon, almost no one predicted the disaster it came to be as the credit crisis caused widespread dislocations in credit markets, which threatened the entire financial system as we knew it. In fact, many forecasters remained bullish on stocks all the way down.

These are just some recent examples of the stock market's innately unpredictable ways and the failed predictions of the pundits. The financial markets are littered with economic forecasters whose proclamations emanate from acute cases of collective thinking and confirmation bias. Most are afraid to be too outlandish in their predictions and therefore have the inability to foresee unusual events that have severe consequences. It's rarely the risk you see coming that turns out to be the crisis to avoid.

While predicting election outcomes, legislative risk, the impact of economic policy or geopolitical risk is hard enough, betting on how the market is going to react to these events has proven over and over again to be a fool's errand. In fact, often it leads to poor investment returns. Many advisers, as well as retail investors, made this mistake last year. The uncertainties caused many to preemptively reduce equity exposure or eliminate it altogether, and it cost them.

Speculating on broad market reaction to future events is not investing. However, this doesn't mean turning a blind eye to events sure to move markets. Proper risk management means always being wary and cognizant of changing market conditions. But with the inability to immediately and accurately recognize the fate of stocks, a disciplined risk mitigation approach is required. A defined exit strategy allows investors to stay allocated and only react to changes in market sentiment and deteriorating conditions with the goal of avoiding severe and debilitating losses. Small pullbacks, whether event driven or not, are healthy for the long-term prospects of the market and shouldn't be met with panic selling.

Nor should investment decisions be made because a collective group of forecasters read and react to each other's analysis. Rather it pays to stay true to a diversified strategy and follow disciplined exit protocols that will help to largely avoid the real crisis that no one sees coming.

Update: The streak of consecutive up days reached twelve before closing down on Tuesday, February 28th.

Weston

Weston Pollock, is a Managing Partner at Smith Anglin Financial, and leads the firm's marketing and business development. He regularly meets with prospective clients, counsels existing clients, participates in investment portfolio analysis and develops materials for communicating with the firm's clientele and target markets. He holds a BBA in Finance and Real Estate and numerous securities licenses and designations.

Experts at the Captain's Table: All members have a wide and varied background in all areas of wealth management. Most importantly, the members have worked extensively with professional pilots at American, Delta, Federal Express, Southwest, United – and every airline that merged into these along the way – for more than 85 years combined. They know your world, your benefits, how to retire in the best way, and what is needed at each life-stage in retirement to get you to your goal.

BONDS and INTEREST RATES

High quality, plain vanilla bonds (as measured by the Barclay's Capital Aggregate Bond Index) are up about 1% for the year. Last month we highlighted how bond returns got pinched in the final quarter of 2016. Interest rate expectations have changed quite a bit since the election, and bond market investors are looking for higher yields. Inflation came in at 2.3% in January, and during her most recent congressional hearing, Fed Chair Janet Yellen's tone was noticeably more hawkish. After Yellen's testimony



to Congress Fed Funds Futures – which show the market's view on the likelihood of interest rate hikes--saw the March rate hike probability move from 20% up to 33%. After President Trump's address to Congress, that probability jumped again from 33% to 66%. Remember, we only saw one interest rate hike of 0.25% in all of 2015, and only one more of the same size in 2016. This could be the year where we see multiple rate hikes (the consensus view is 2-3), putting the Fed Funds rate above 1% for the first time since the back half of 2008.

ECONOMY

February started off with positive jobs data. January saw 227,000 jobs added, and inflation has officially reached the Fed's stated target. Low unemployment and healthy inflation readings are the Fed's primary policy goals, and Yellen's recent testimony to Congress suggests that the Fed thinks the economy is doing just fine. Also, the University of Michigan Consumer Sentiment Index raced up to a 13-year high in January, posting a final reading of 98.5.

EMPTY NET

When a hockey team gets behind and time is running out, the coach will often pull the goalie out of the game and substitute in another offensive player in order to create more scoring opportunities. Usually a lone defensive player is left to protect his team's goal as best he can, but the strategy is all about creating the best situation possible to score. There's risk in the strategy, but when your team is after a playoff spot or, better yet, a championship, you'll resort to any means necessary. That's not too unlike President Trump's policies: Pull the negative forces of high tax rates and burdensome regulation from the equation and shift the strategy to one of offense, and good things may come of it.

Right now, we're transitioning to this "pull the goalie" strategy, but we're watching it all play out in super slow motion because the wheels of government turn slowly. It's like the goalie is ever so slowly skating to the side-line (executive orders setting this in motion), and the replacing defensive player (the favorable taxes, new trade deals, and deregulation) has yet to hit the ice. It's a real nail-biter right now. While tax cuts may reduce government revenues, at least temporarily, President Trump has promised increased spending on America's aging infrastructure. That's not going to help the deficit, at least not in the short term, which may be an issue for Congressional Republicans who have a penchant for voting down such policies. Tax legislation will also be subject to compromise and the long process that is government "action". If this transition is not handled smoothly, the game could be lost before the strategies are even in play. There are many risks in the world of investing, but possibly the greatest of them right now would be a policy misstep.

Stock prices, like Gretzky, have rushed ahead and are waiting for the puck. It's hard to tell how far away that puck is, but another Gretzky quote helps to make sense of taking on risk and staying invested: "You miss 100% of the shots you never take."

Advertisement

→ If you're approaching retirement, **NOW is the time to have a conversation and get everything lined up for your "final approach."**

We've made it easy for you to chart the path to your "final approach," in our
FREE "14 Days to a Secure & Prosperous Retirement Course!"

click here to sign up for this "no-strings attached" free email course.

Provided by Smith Anglin, a Registered Investment Advisor

Upgrade your 401k Autopilot ProgramSM with **BrokerageLink[®]!**

Remove the restrictions imposed within the 401k platform fund choices and open your retirement savings to more investment opportunities.

- ♦ no longer limited to just the funds in the Delta Plan; you have access to hundreds of actively managed mutual funds, exchange traded funds (ETFs), and even individual stocks
- ♦ freedom to trade without fear of "frequent trading" warnings; and ETFs, stocks and similar securities are able to be traded during a trading day
- ♦ **Call today, 1-888-254-1727**

Manage My 401k for Me!

Are you too busy to keep up with your 401k?
Do trips and time zones keep you out of the loop?
Want to make sure changes are made automatically to your account?

The 401k Autopilot ProgramSM is offered through Smith Anglin (not the newsletter). The firm provides *daily supervision*, going beyond the newsletter recommendations. All this for a fee smaller than the amount the market often fluctuates in a *day*. There is a \$250,000 minimum combined 401k plus any transferred accounts.

Get your free Autopilot Starter Kit at
www.smithanglin.com/401k-autopilotprogram/

Services provided through Smith Anglin, a
Registered Investment Advisor