

APRIL 2017



IN THIS ISSUE:

Market Summary 1

 Yield Curve
 Current Yields

Economic Round-Up 2

 Credit Spreads
 Economic Indicators

Since 1988, Chandler Asset Management has specialized in the management of fixed income portfolios. Chandler's mission is to provide fully customizable, client-centered portfolio management that preserves principal, manages risk and generates income in our clients' portfolios.

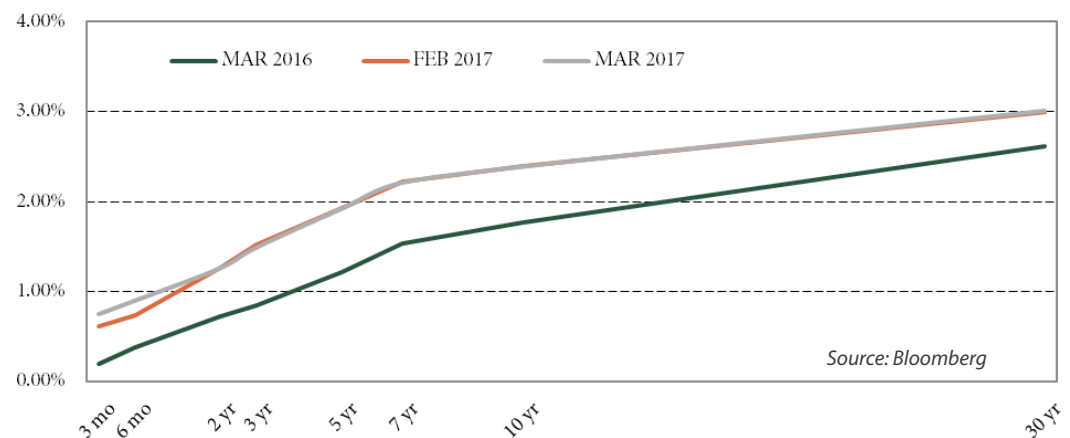
Market Summary

The Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) raised the fed funds target rate by 25 basis points to a range of 0.75%-1.00% in March. There was one dissenting vote from Minneapolis Fed President Neel Kashkari who preferred no rate hike. The Fed noted that economic activity has expanded at a moderate pace, labor market gains remain solid, and inflation is moving close to the Fed's 2.0% target. The Fed is still projecting a 1.4% fed funds rate by the end of this year, which implies two more 25 basis point hikes. The long-run fed funds rate projection was also unchanged at 3.0%. The FOMC did not make any decisions about their balance sheet reinvestment plans and will continue that discussion during future meetings.

Domestic economic data remains indicative of slow growth. The economy is likely at or near full employment, consumer confidence is strong, manufacturing indicators have improved, and housing trends remain favorable. Looking further ahead, a potential boost in fiscal stimulus could provide a further tailwind to economic growth. GDP grew by 2.1% in the fourth quarter. We expect GDP growth of 2.0%-2.5% in 2017.

The Treasury yield curve continued to flatten modestly in March. Very short-term Treasury yields (under 2-year maturities) increased while rates across the rest of Treasury yield curve were essentially unchanged. Meanwhile sovereign yields in Germany increased in March, and yields in Japan were little changed.

The Treasury Yield Curve Flattened in Recent Months:



On a year-over-year basis the 2-year Treasury yield has increased 53 basis points and 10-year Treasury yield is up about 62 basis points. At the end of 2016, following the election, US Treasury yields increased meaningfully driven by heightened expectations for fiscal stimulus and growth under the Trump administration and Republican-controlled Congress. However, in recent months, the Treasury yield curve has flattened as some of the post-election exuberance regarding fiscal spending, tax reform, and healthcare reform has started to wane. The Treasury yield curve has also been influenced by movements in global sovereign bond yields as well as Federal Reserve policy tightening. The Fed has raised the fed funds rate by 25 basis points twice in the past 4 months.

TREASURY YIELDS	Trend (▲/▼)	3/31/2017	2/28/2017	Change
3-Month	▲	0.75	0.61	0.14
2-Year	-	1.26	1.26	0.00
3-Year	▼	1.49	1.52	(0.03)
5-Year	▼	1.92	1.93	(0.01)
7-Year	▼	2.21	2.22	(0.01)
10-Year	-	2.39	2.39	0.00
30-Year	▲	3.01	3.00	0.01

Source: Bloomberg

BOND MARKET REVIEW

Market Data

World Indices
data as of 3/31/2017

	Diff (2/28/17)	% Change
S&P 500		
2,362.72	(0.92)	(0.04%)
NASDAQ		
5,911.74	86.30	1.48%
DOW JONES		
20,663.22	(149.02)	(0.72%)
FTSE (UK)		
7,322.92	59.48	0.82%
DAX (Germany)		
12,312.87	478.46	4.04%
Hang Seng (Hong Kong)		
24,111.59	370.86	1.56%
Nikkei (Japan)		
18,909.26	(209.73)	(1.10%)

Source: Bloomberg

Economic Roundup

Consumer Prices

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) was up 2.7% year-over-year in February, versus up 2.5% year-over-year in January. Core CPI (CPI less food and energy) was up 2.2% year-over-year in February, versus up 2.3% year-over-year in January. The Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) index was up 2.1% year-over-year in February, versus up 1.9% year-over-year in January. Core PCE (excluding food and energy) was up 1.8% year-over-year in February, versus up 1.7% year-over-year in January. CPI is already trending above 2.0%, and the Fed's primary inflation gauge (PCE) is approaching the Fed's 2.0% target.

Retail Sales

On a year-over-year basis, total retail sales were up 5.7% in February compared with a 6.0% increase in January. On a month-over-month basis, retail sales were up 0.1% in February, following a 0.6% increase in January. Excluding autos and gas, retail sales increased 0.2% in February, following a 1.2% gain in January. On average, retail sales trends were solid in the first two months of the year.

Labor Market

Nonfarm payrolls were significantly lower than expected in March, up 98,000 versus the consensus forecast of 175,000. January and February payrolls were revised down by 38,000. On a trailing 3-month and 6-month basis, payrolls increased by an average of 178,000 and 163,000 per month, respectively. The unemployment rate fell to 4.5% in March from 4.7% in February. The participation rate was unchanged at 63.0%. A broader measure of unemployment called the U-6, which includes those who are marginally attached to the labor force and employed part time for economic reasons, decreased to 8.9% in March from 9.2% in February. Wage growth rose 0.2% in March, versus expectations for a 0.3% increase. This follows an upwardly revised gain of 0.3% in February (previously 0.2%). On a year-over-year basis, wages were up 2.7% in March, vs. 2.8% in February.

Housing Starts

Total housing starts rose 3.0% in February, following a 1.9% decrease in January. Single-family starts rose 6.5% in February, but multi-family starts declined 3.7%. On a year-over-year basis, total housing starts were up 6.2% in February.

Credit Spreads Widened Slightly in March

CREDIT SPREADS	Spread to Treasuries (%)	One Month Ago (%)	Change
3-month top rated commercial paper	0.21	0.23	(0.02)
2-year A corporate note	0.59	0.49	0.10
5-year A corporate note	0.69	0.61	0.08
5-year Agency note	0.10	0.06	0.04

Source: Bloomberg

Data as of 3/31/2017

Economic Data Points to Continued Slow Growth

ECONOMIC INDICATOR	Current Release	Prior Release	One Year Ago
Trade Balance	(43.6) \$Bln FEB 17	(48.2) \$Bln JAN 17	(45.6) \$Bln FEB 16
GDP	2.1% DEC 16	3.5% SEP 16	0.9% DEC 15
Unemployment Rate	4.5% MAR 17	4.7% FEB 17	5.0% MAR 16
Prime Rate	4.00% MAR 17	3.75% FEB 17	3.5% MAR 16
CRB Index	185.88 MAR 17	190.62 FEB 17	170.52 MAR 16
Oil (West Texas Int.)	\$50.60 MAR 17	\$54.01 FEB 17	\$38.34 MAR 16
Consumer Price Index (y/o/y)	2.7% FEB 17	2.5% JAN 17	1.0% FEB 16
Producer Price Index (y/o/y)	3.7% FEB 17	3.0% JAN 17	(2.0%) FEB 16
Dollar/Euro	1.07 MAR 17	1.06 FEB 17	1.14 MAR 16

Source: Bloomberg

©2017 Chandler Asset Management, Inc, An Independent Registered Investment Adviser.

This report is provided for informational purposes only and should not be construed as specific investment or legal advice. The information contained herein was obtained from sources believed to be reliable as of the date of publication, but may become outdated or superseded at any time without notice. Any opinions or views expressed are based on current market conditions and are subject to change. This report may contain forecasts and forward-looking statements which are inherently limited and should not be relied upon as an indicator of future results. Past performance is not indicative of future results. This report is not intended to constitute an offer, solicitation, recommendation or advice regarding any securities or investment strategy and should not be regarded by recipients as a substitute for the exercise of their own judgment. Fixed income investments are subject to interest, credit, and market risk. Interest rate risk: the value of fixed income investments will decline as interest rates rise. Credit risk: the possibility that the borrower may not be able to repay interest and principal. Low rated bonds generally have to pay higher interest rates to attract investors willing to take on greater risk. Market risk: the bond market in general could decline due to economic conditions, especially during periods of rising interest rates.



Toll Free: 800.317.4747
info@chandlerasset.com
chandlerasset.com